Retirees charge banker Dante Ang with fraud, estafa

Story Below Col. 2

Lucky 6 hit record P202-M lotto jackpot

By Agnes E. Donato

SIX lucky lotto players became multi-millionaires last night when they won the biggest jackpot prize in the history of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) lottery.

The six winners—three each from Luzon and Visayas-Mindanao—will share

LUCKY/ A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Salonga warns GMA about Azcuna in SC

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE CIVIL society group Bantay Katarungan through former Sen. Jovito Salonga has warned President Macapagal-Arroyo of serious legal and political repercussions should she appoint Adolf Azcuna to the Supreme Court.

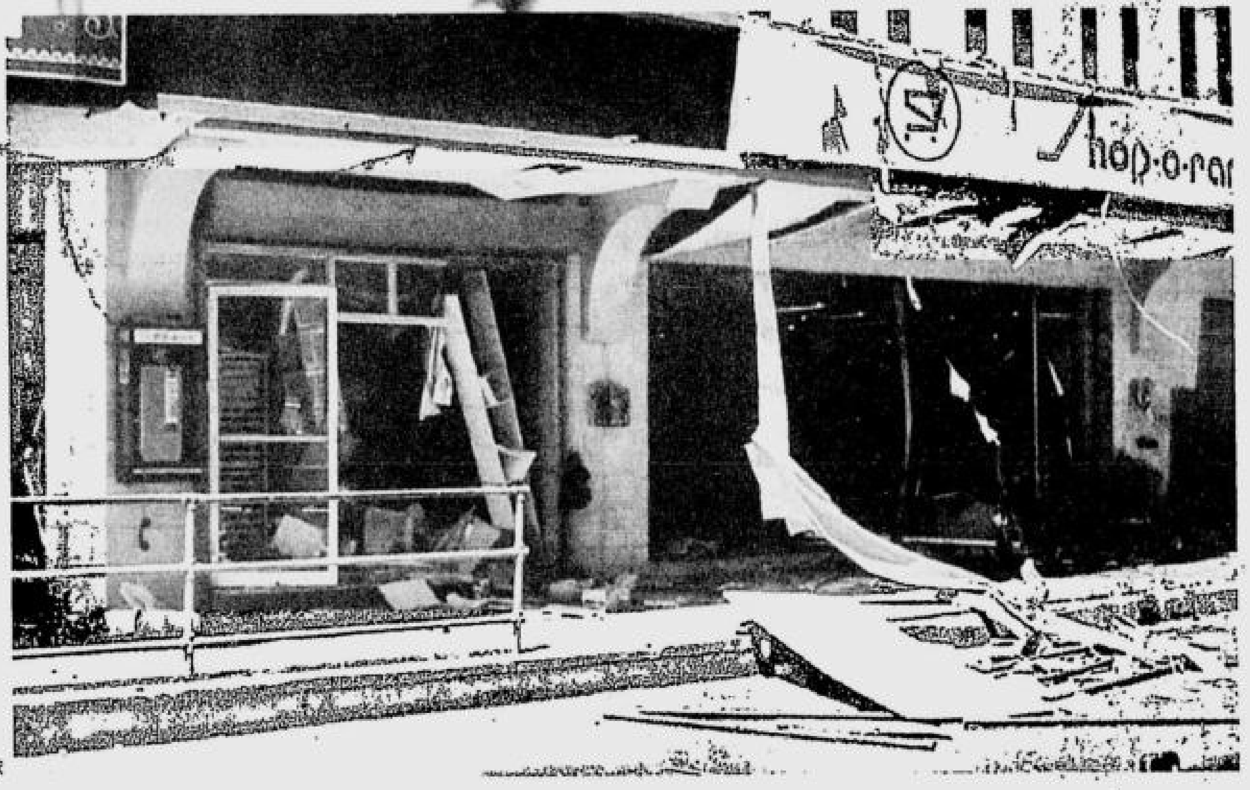
Ms Macapagal had twice publicly ex-

SALONGA/ A19

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, October 18, 2002 ★★ 88 pages / 8 sections / vol. 17 / no. 312 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Abus blamed for blasts

Six dead, 140 wounded in twin Zamboanga bombings



AP

THE ANGUISHED face of the little girl (above) tells the story of the horrors that she had seen while being treated at the Zamboanga City General Hospital. (At left) Scene of one explosion, Shop-o-Rama, is not as devastating as the Bali blasts, but no less terrifying and shocking.

By Martin P. Marfil
and TJ Burgonio, *in Manila*
Rolly San Juan and Ed General
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ABU SAYYAF leader Khadaffy Janjalani and Jemaah Islamiyah were responsible for yesterday's twin bombings in Zamboanga City that killed six people and injured at least 140, according to military and police officials.

Jemaah Islamiyah, a regional Islamic militant group with close ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida, is also suspected of involvement in the terrorist attack on Bali, Indonesia, which claimed the lives of at least 190 people.

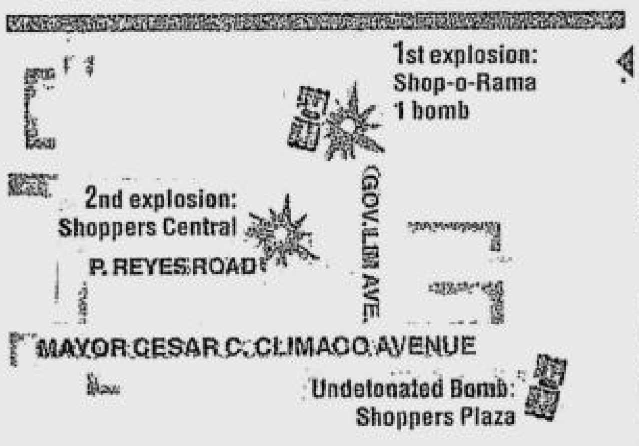
Camp Aguinaldo said a total of seven bombs were placed in the area and that two of them exploded while the other five were recovered and defused. But police said only two other bombs were disarmed.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, Armed Forces public information chief, said the bombs used in the attacks were the same type used in the Oct. 2 bombing in Malagutay, Zamboanga City, that killed a US serviceman and three Filipinos. Six other people were killed and more than 20 others were wounded in a similar attack on Oct. 10 in Kidapawan City.

"We are looking at the group of Khadaffy Janjalani as primarily responsible for the inci-

ABUS/ A18

ONE TOO MANY BOMBS IN TEN DAYS


1st explosion: Shop-o-Rama 1 bomb
2nd explosion: Shoppers Central
P. REYES ROAD
GOV. LIM AVE.
MAYOR CESAR C. CLIMACO AVENUE
Undetonated Bomb: Shoppers Plaza

INQMAP: E. SAMBO

OCT. 17, 2002:
Zamboanga City

OCT. 10, 2002:
Kidapawan City, Cotabato
- 6 people dead

OCT. 2, 2002:
Barangay Malagutay, Zamboanga City
- 2 Filipinos
- 1 American dead

7 foreigners bombed Bali, says Jakarta Post

DENPASAR, Indonesia—Both foreigners and Indonesians were involved in the devastating nightclub bombing on the resort island of Bali, Indonesian top security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said yesterday.

The Jakarta Post said yesterday that seven foreigners, led by a Yemeni and a Malaysian, masterminded and carried out the Bali bombing which killed at least 183 people.

The suspected terrorist cell entered Indonesia through the city of Semarang, about 400 km east of Jakarta, two days prior to the blast, the daily said. The nationalities of the others were unknown, but they may have included at least one European, the report said.

A spokesperson for Indonesia's intelligence agency said he could not confirm the report.

Yudhoyono also named elderly Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir as one of the leaders of the Jemaah Islamiyah, which has been described by regional governments as a Southeast Asian terrorist network.

He promised legal action if Bashir or others were proved to be engaged in acts of terrorism.

7 FOREIGNERS/ A18

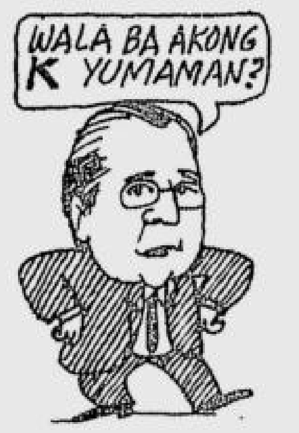
Headless corpse stuns shoppers: 'My God, my God'

ZAMBOANGA—A dazed shopper saw the headless body of a victim of yesterday's Zamboanga bomb attack, turned away and moaned "my God, my God."

Many others looked stunned, some looked and walked away, leaving the mutilated body, the screams of the wounded and the debris of wrecked cars, shop fronts and shattered glass.

The headless corpse belonged to one of six people killed when the bombs ripped through two malls in the center

HEADLESS/ A18


WALA BA AKONG K YUMAMAN?

'Don't I have right to get rich?'

By Carlito Pablo

"DON'T we have the right to get rich?" said Dante Ang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's personal publicist, a day after he admitted that he partly owns BankWise, a mid-sized thrift bank he acquired six months ago.

"Bargain hunting is my

DON'T/ A18

Banker Ang bought trouble, gets sued

By Clarissa S. Batino

DANTE ANG may have bought trouble along with a bank.

Yesterday, a group of foreign retirees filed before the National Bureau of Investigation a complaint against Ang and other officers of BankWise for fraud, estafa and threats.

Ang chairs BankWise where he and a group bought a controlling stake six months ago.

Also named in the NBI complaint is BankWise president Lazaro Madara, bank director Vicente Campa, executive vice president Javier Quintos and two individuals not affiliated with the bank.

The Prama Foundation composed of retired foreigners had complained before the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that funds deposited in BankWise were

BANKER/ A18

NBI nabs chief suspect in ₱2.5-B tax credit scam

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Christine Avendaño

NINE months after he reportedly fled the country, Faustino T. Chingkoe, one of the principal suspects in the P2.5-billion tax credit certificates scam, was arrested yesterday at the Quezon City Hall compound.

Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation nabbed Chingkoe at 9:30 a.m. at the second floor of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court building after he attended a civil case hearing at RTC Branch 96.

He and his wife, Gloria, were reported to have fled the country last December hours before a

NBI/ A19

FLOWER DRUM SONG

STARS on Broadway are Filipinos Lea Salonga and Jose Llana in the musical "Flower Drum Song" which opens today. Playing the lead role, Salonga is touted to showcase once again her remarkable talent which has earned her awards including the Tony and an Olivier for "Miss Saigon," and a world-class reputation.

Lea Salonga returns to Broadway

By Mozart Pastrano
Contributor

NEW YORK CITY—After a 10-year absence, Lea Salonga opens a musical on Broadway—and still about the dramatic confrontations of East and West.

At 8 a.m. today (Manila time), the curtains will rise on "Flower Drum Song" at the Virginia Theatre on 245 West 52nd Street, right smack in the commercial theater district here, after weeks of previews.

Salonga plays the leading role of Mei-Li, an Asian girl who arrives in the United States to start a new life, seemingly a take-off from the ending of the phenomenal Cameron Makintosh musical "Miss Saigon" which made her reputation as a world-class stage actor. (She won Tony, Olivier, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama Desk awards for originating the role of Kim in "Miss Saigon.")

LEA/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/10/18/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Suspect in Kidapawan blast falls

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAMIGUIN ISLAND—North Cotabato authorities have arrested the prime suspect in the Oct. 11 bombing of a Kidapawan City bus terminal that killed seven people and wounded 25 others.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol told the INQUIRER by telephone that Datu Ali Sultan was nabbed at a bar in Kidapawan City on Wednesday evening by elements of Task Force Lion Hunter.

The task force was formed to go after the suspects behind the deadly blast. It is composed of police and military members.

Yesterday morning, the task force also invited for questioning one Nasrulleh Manigpil, a resident of Barangay Nuangan in Kidapawan City.

Police intelligence operatives suspected Manigpil of helping to carry out the bombing. He was released, however, after witnesses failed to identify him.

Witnesses said they saw at least two persons acting suspiciously shortly before the bomb went off. They said one of them left a black bag and hastily left.

The witnesses said one suspect returned to the bus terminal on a motorcycle after the bomb had gone off. They said he appeared to be assessing the damage.

Piñol said Sultan was positively identified based on the cartographic sketch provided by the witnesses.

"He was positively identified as the one who had planted the bomb," he said.

The blast also damaged at least two buses owned by Weena Express Co.

Company officials had insisted to Piñol that the bombers were not separatist terrorists but extortionists whose demands for money they had refused.

Piñol would not say what group Sultan, who hails from Rajemuda in Pikit, North Cotabato, belonged to.

A source privy to the investigation, however, said Sultan belonged to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Shortly after the explosion, Piñol had cleared the MILF of responsibility, but the military said it was possible the rebel group did it.

Piñol and police authorities had also ruled out the participation of the communist New People's Army. They instead pointed to extortion groups as the most likely suspects.

One of those groups had been demanding P4 million in protection money from Weena management, it was learned.

A bank account number, provided by the group to Weena owner Bienvenido Valdezieso, prompted authorities to conclude that the group was based outside North Cotabato. The account number was traced to a bank in Iligan City.

With Sultan's arrest, Piñol declared the solution of the case close at hand.

He said charges against Sultan were to be filed yesterday.

Feud over Mark Jimenez fails to block DOJ budget

By Juliet L. Javellana

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez's "persecution" of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez did not get in the way of Congress' approval of the Department of Justice's P6.5-billion budget for next year.

On the contrary, the congressmen even moved to increase the DOJ budget by P130 million and restored the cuts made to the outlay by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Unlike other departments whose budgets underwent intense scrutiny before the House appropriations committee, the DOJ budget hearing was a breeze, resulting in its approval in under two hours.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, one of those who had denounced the DOJ and Perez for opposing bail for Jimenez while he is undergoing an extradition hearing, even led the motion to terminate the DOJ budget hearing early.

"Since we echo the same sentiment—that the budget of the DOJ needs to be increased—let us now terminate the hearing," Pichay said.

Pichay and Representatives Eduardo Zialcita, Eduardo Veloso, Narciso Monfort and Etta Rosales proposed an increase in the DOJ budget because of the department's importance.

Perez said the DOJ had originally proposed a budget of P6.5 billion for next year but the DBM slashed this to P4.7 billion.

"This was the fastest budget hearing," remarked Aklan Rep. Gabrielle Calizo.

Gloria to visit Silicon Valley

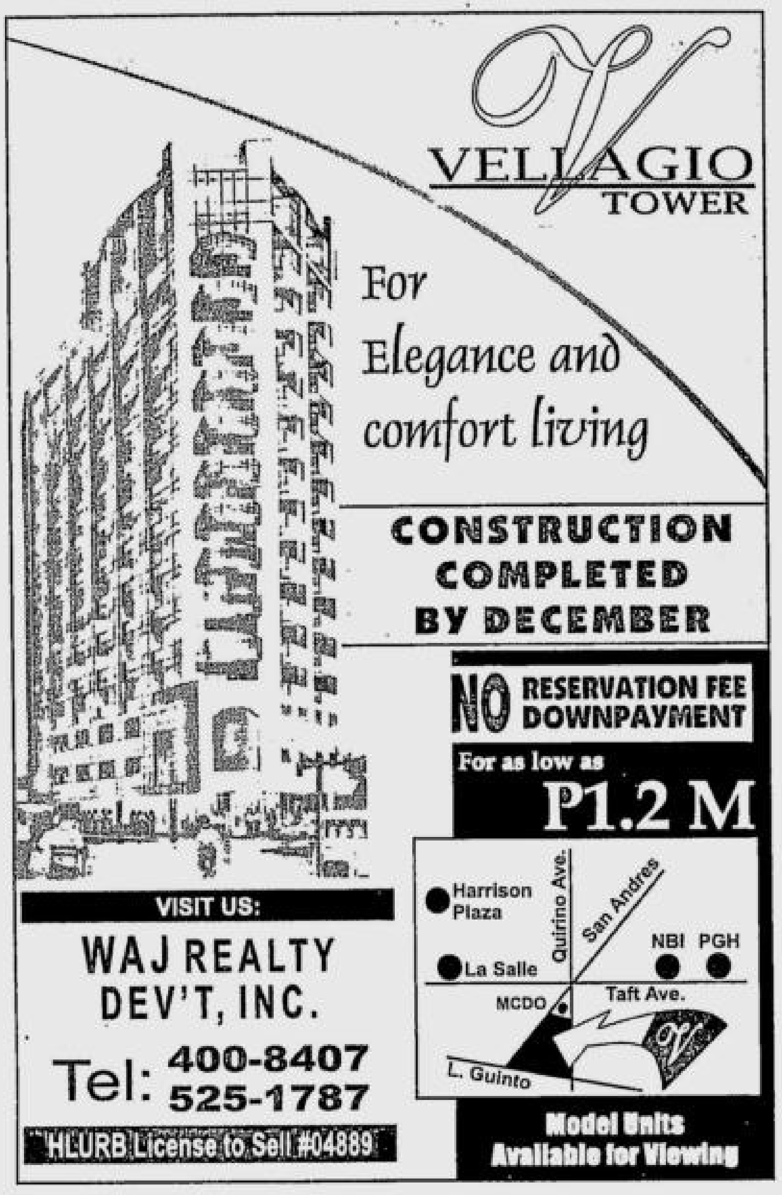
PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will visit California's Silicon Valley to meet US business executives after attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Mexico.

"Right after Apec, she will pass by Silicon Valley, where she will meet very influential businessmen from the United States," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a radio interview yesterday.

He said that with Ms Macapagal's visit to Silicon Valley, the Philippines might be able to attract more investment from information technology companies.

Bunye did not give further details about the side trip.

The President is scheduled to join 20 other heads of state from Asian and Pacific Rim countries in Los Cabos, Mexico, later this month for the annual Apec summit, where leaders are expected to discuss terrorism and other global issues such as trade and financial markets. *AP*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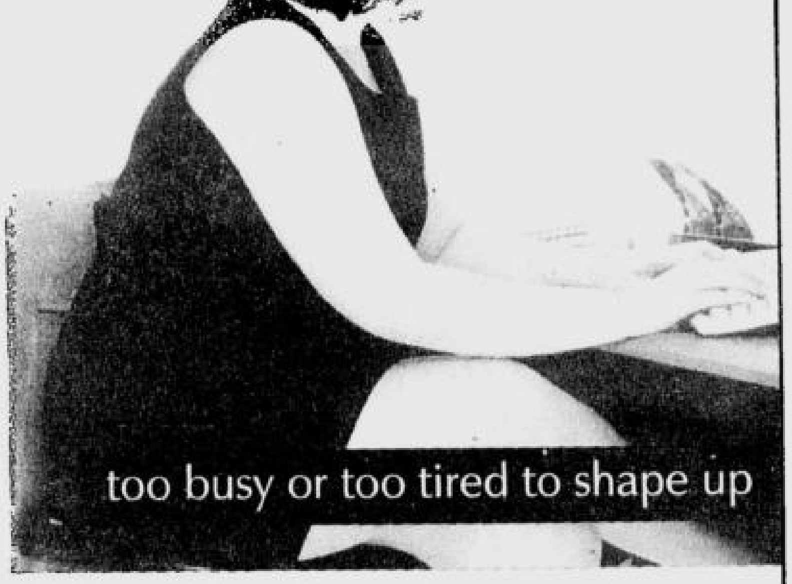

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Norway to host new RP talks with Reds

OSLO—Norway agreed on Wednesday to try to revive peace talks between the Philippine government and communist rebels, branded a terrorist group by Washington.

"We have been asked to engage ourselves in peace talks and we will look into the possibilities of doing so," Norwegian Foreign Minister Jan Petersen told reporters after talks with Philippine Foreign Secretary Blas Ople in Oslo.

Ople said he wanted the rebels to renounce political assassinations as a pre-condition for renewed talks in Norway, which hosted negotiations between the Philippine government and the communist rebels last year.

Ople said that he believed it was "only a question of time" before the rebels renounced assassination. "Then we can renew the peace talks," he said.

The Oslo talks were suspended last year after rebel death squads assassinated several local politicians. Norwegian officials said a great deal of work remained before talks could get under way again.

The government said in August that it might resume peace talks, either in Oslo or in the Netherlands, where top Philippine communist leaders have lived in self-imposed exile for about 15 years.

Washington said in August that the communist group and the NPA military wing were a "foreign terrorist organization." *Reuters*

Contraceptives are plenty, but not antibiotics

By A. Nocum

GOVERNMENT health clinics are heavily stocked with contraceptives, but have little or no supply of basic medicines, such as antibiotics.

Pro-life groups made this observation Wednesday as they assailed the government for giving so much emphasis on population control, instead of putting in place an effective health care program.

"Our health centers have no antibiotics, but they are bursting with contraceptives," said Ma. Lourdes Galza, the Salesian representative to the CBCP's Episcopal Commission on Family and Life.

In a press briefing called by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, pro-lifers said this situation would show that the government is less concerned about peoples' reproductive health, as much as the promotion of abortion.

Budget cuts

"If the concern is total health care . . . why is it that health care programs are the first to suffer during budget cuts," asked Galza.

Pro-life groups raised this point to show that in pushing for the passage of the proposed Reproductive Health Care Act, the government's real intent is simply to legalize abortion.

House Bill No. 4110 intends to promote reproductive rights, gender equality, access to reproductive health services; and recognizes the right of individuals to decide freely and responsibly on the number of children they want to have.

They point to the provision of House Bill 4110 calling for the amendment of the Revised Penal Code to "allow consensual abortion."

The bill also seeks to effect a review of laws "containing punitive measures against women who have undergone illegal abortions."

Thus, they conclude that reproductive health is only a sweetener to mask the promotion of abortion.

Bunye off to Brunei

PRESS Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday left for Brunei to attend an Asean conference of information ministers.

It was Bunye's first official trip abroad since his appointment last July.

"I will be meeting my counterparts from other Asean countries," Bunye said.

Bunye will be having less broadcast and print exposure when presidential spokesperson-on leave Rigoberto Tiglao returns to work in the next few weeks.

"He (Tiglao) would officially start maybe around November," Bunye said.

Tiglao went on a six-month leave starting last April and his chores were temporarily assumed by Silvestre Afable, head of the presidential management staff, before Bunye was appointed press secretary.

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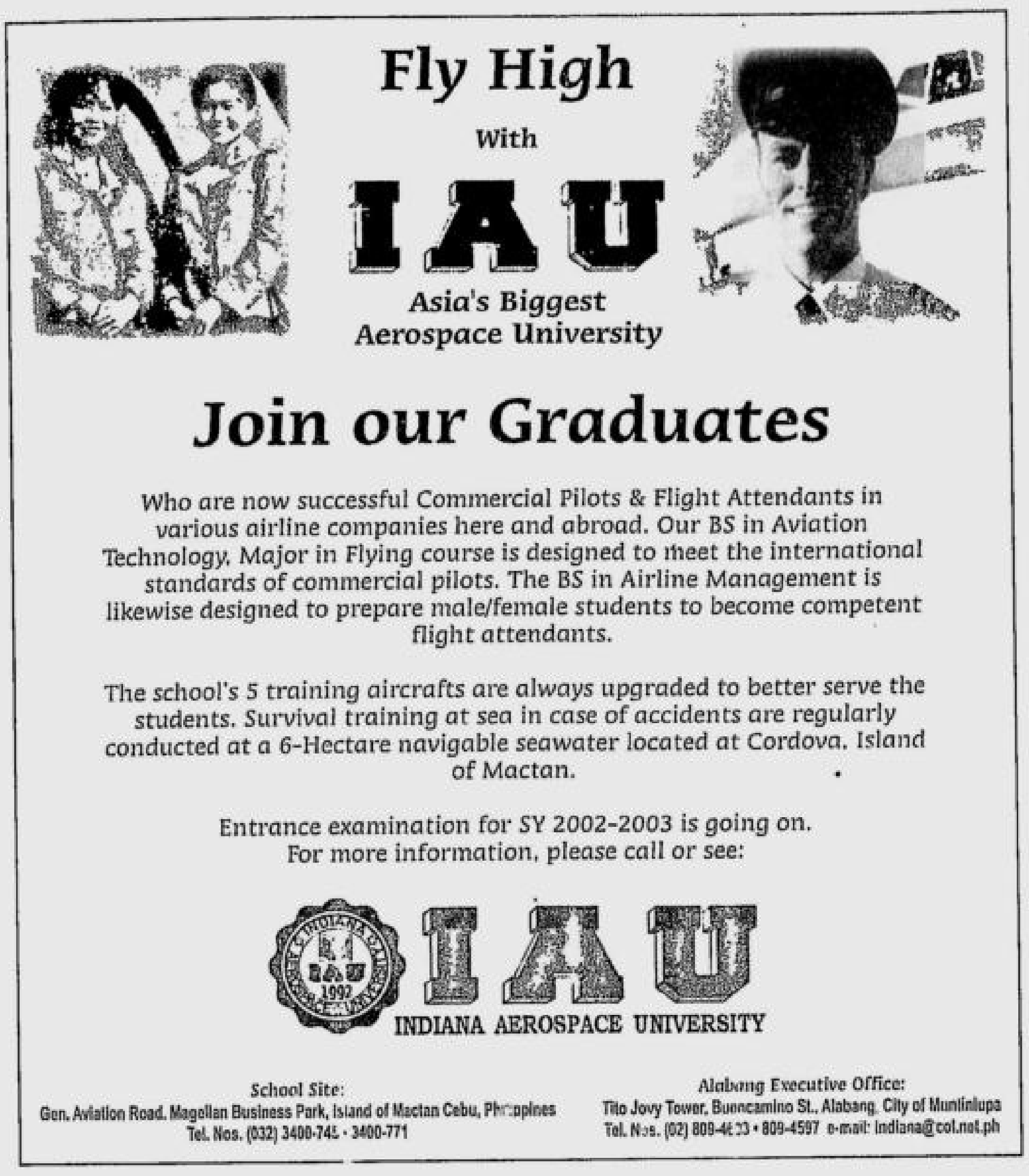

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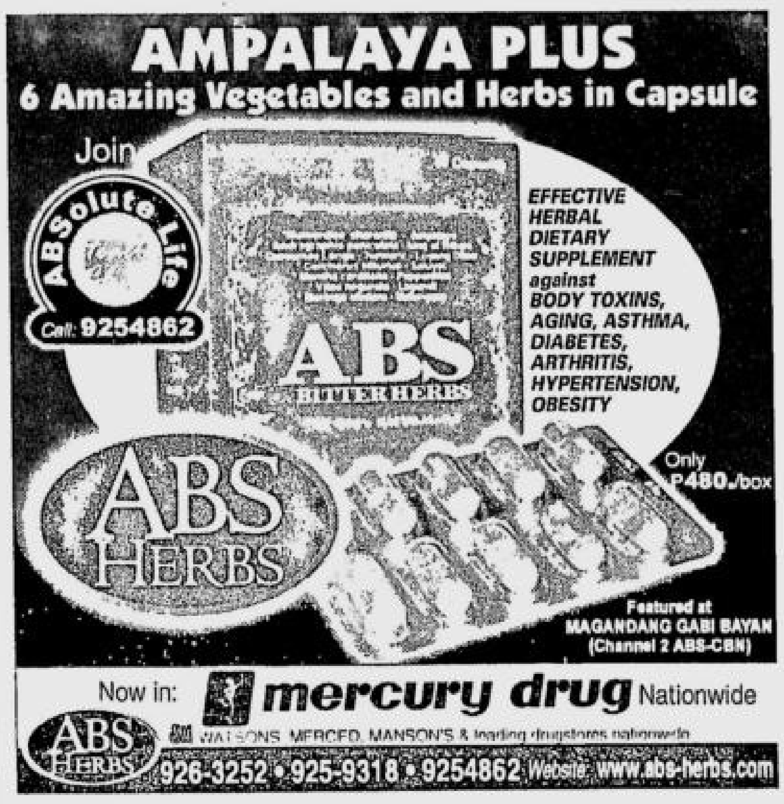

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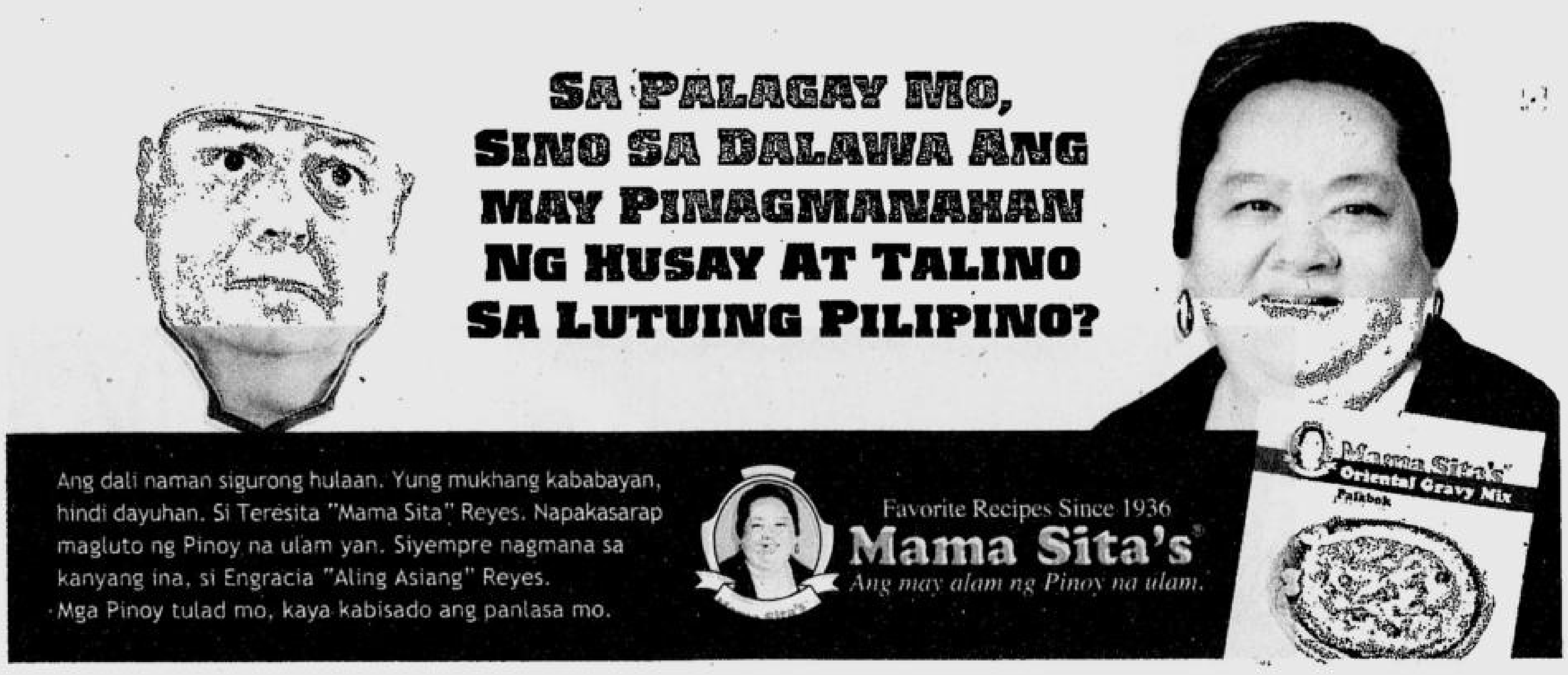

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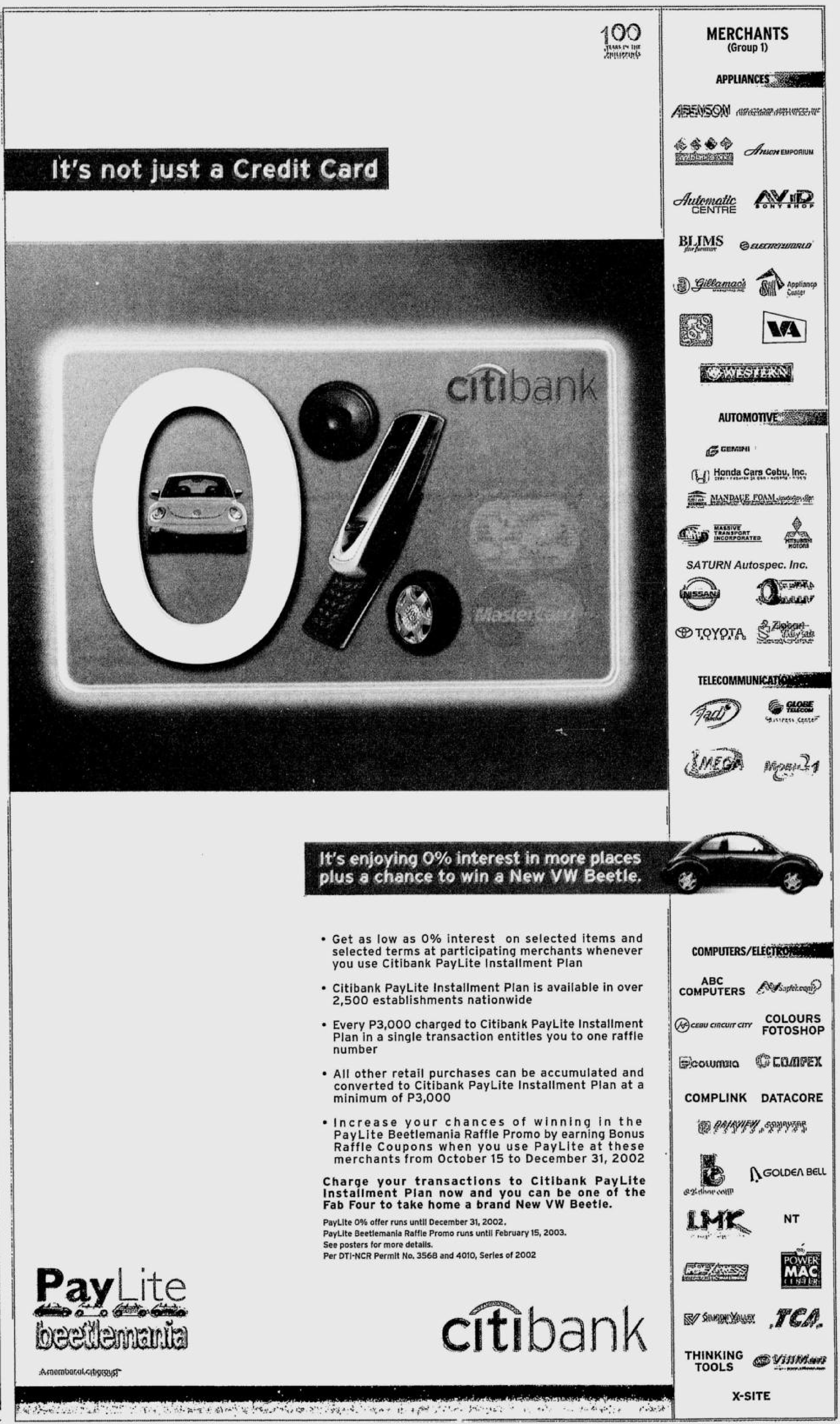

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3568 and 4010, Series of 2002

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DENR to appeal ruling on Picop

By G. Lacuarta

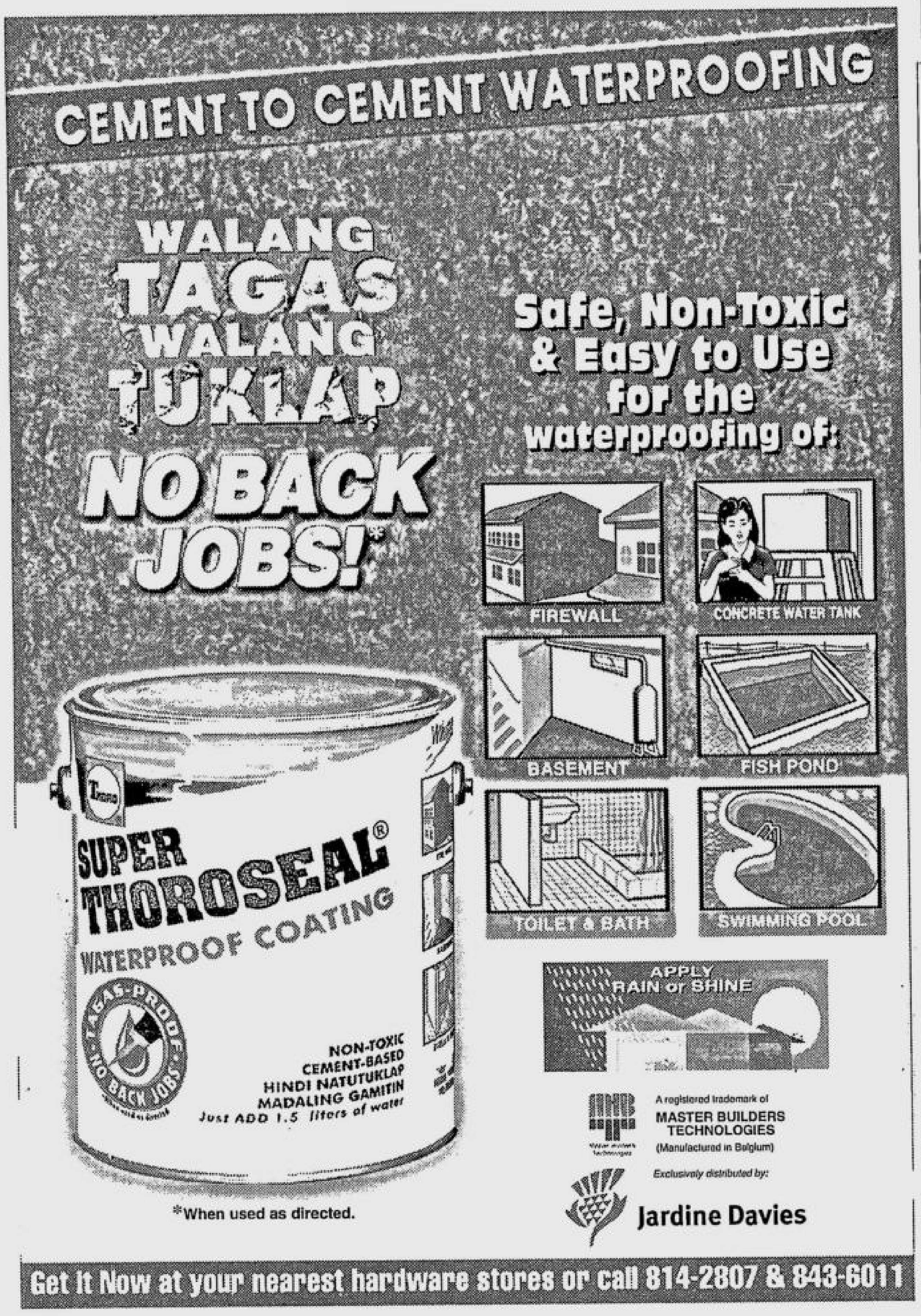
THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources will appeal a recent decision of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court to compel the department to convert the expired logging permit of the Picop Resources Inc. into an Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA).

The DENR, in a statement, said its legal department would file a motion for reconsideration on the order of Quezon City RTC Judge Jose G. Paneda on Oct. 11, 2002 favoring Picop, whose Timber License Agreement No. 43 expired in April.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez had rejected Picop's application for the conversion of its TLA into an IFMA because of P37.36 million in unpaid forest charges and surcharges for logs harvested from January to December 2001.

The DENR said it would appeal the order of the Quezon City court and pursue the case against Picop even if it reaches the Supreme Court.

"The lower court's decision is not yet final. Under the law, we are entitled to file a motion for reconsideration within the next 15 days of the decision," it said.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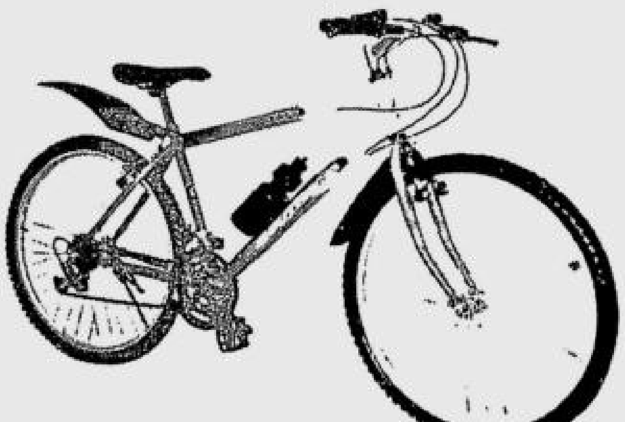

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Consumer groups seek price control

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CONSUMER groups called yesterday for government price controls on electricity, petroleum products and basic foodstuff, as they launched a new wave of protest actions against the continued rise in the prices of these commodities.

Renato Reyes Jr., Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) spokesperson and convenor of People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power), said in a telephone interview that without a price control mechanism, big businesses would continue to hike prices while claiming to look out for consumers by not raising prices to the levels they should.

"Contrary to the big companies' claims," Reyes said, "the public has not benefited from these price increases except to shoulder them."

He said the public is clamoring for price controls. "No survey is needed to confirm this," he said.

Reyes said Bayan, Power and allied groups launched last night a nationally coordinated movement against the purchased power adjustment (PPA) in electric bills and the recent oil price hikes.

"Initially, we are holding noise barrages and lights out campaigns in Sampaloc and Malate in Manila," Reyes said. "We will hold other protest actions in other regions in the following days."

The consumer welfare advocate said the government's promise to make electricity more affordable was a big failure.

The President had introduced a 10-point program to bring down power rates, one of which was to order the National Power Corp. in May to reduce its purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA) by an average of 85 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

Napocor's customers, like the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), pass on to consumers the PPCA as the PPA.

"The 14-centavo per kwh rise in Meralco rates this month means profits of about P157 million," Reyes said.

He proposed some medium and long-term solutions to stem rising prices, among them:

- A government takeover of Meralco's distribution functions, which would do away with the profiteering motive of the Lopez group which controls the utility.
- The scrapping of the PPA as an automatic price adjustment mechanism.
- The nationalization of the oil industry.
- And the suspension or phase-out of specific taxes on oil products, which would bring down current prices by an average of P1.68 per liter.

Warrant for YOU leader's arrest out

By Christian V. Esguerra

SUPT. Rafael Cardeno, chair of the Young Officers' Union (YOU), is now officially a fugitive.

Las Piñas City Judge Bonifacio Sanz Maceda signed yesterday a warrant of arrest for Cardeno and another man in connection with the New Year's Eve killing of Baron Cervantes, self-styled YOU spokesperson.

Maceda recommended no bail for Cardeno and Santiago "Sonny" Camacho, supposed Land Transportation Office employee, in the murder charge they face before his court.

The judge also ordered the transfer of other suspects Joseph Mostrales, Erlindo Torres and Jaime Centeno from Camp Crame, Quezon City to the Las Piñas city jail, according to court officer Leticia Agbayani.

Arraignment for the accused has been set for Oct. 24.

In his affidavit, Mostrales, the confessed gunman, said Cardeno had Cervantes killed for supposedly going against the YOU "cause."

As its name implies, YOU is made up of young idealistic and militant military officers.

Camacho allegedly "set up" Cervantes in front of the Las Piñas convenience store where he was shot in the head on the night of Dec. 31, 2001.

Torres and Centeno had formed the surveillance team, while Rodolfo Patinio, Eugene Radam and Diosdado Santos were the backup group in a second car during the operation, according to Mostrales.

Patinio, Radam and Santos were killed in a supposed shootout with police in Gen. Trias, Cavite, on Sept. 18.

After killing Cervantes, Mostrales and his team proceeded to Cardeno's house in Biñan, Laguna, where they were given a "paltry" sum, Mostrales said.

He said Cardeno and the group then toasted the liquidation of Cervantes with red wine.

Erratum

The one fouth-page open-letter advertisement of DPWH officials and employees to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, which appeared in page **A6** of the **Sept. 14, 2002** issue of the Inquirer, was missing its first paragraph. The ad should have begun with the following:

"This is in reference to the letter-appeal of three alleged presidents of associations of contractors in Albay to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the form of a paid advertisement where they exposed alleged rampant irregularities and anomalies perpetrated by various officials and personnel of the Department of Public Works and Highways Region V, which, they claimed, have deprived them of their own livelihood as legitimate contractors."

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

RIDGE SPORTS AND COUNTRY CLUB CORP.

Upon the call of the majority of the stockholders, pursuant to Section 2, *Article II of the New By-Laws, certified by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on August 31, 1983*, a Special Stockholders' Meeting of the RIDGE SPORTS AND COUNTRY CLUB CORP. will be held on **30 October 2002, Wednesday**, 9:00 a.m. at the Clubhouse of the Ridge Resort and Convention Center, Silang Crossing, Tagaytay City.

AGENDA OF THE MEETING

Election of New Interim Board of Directors

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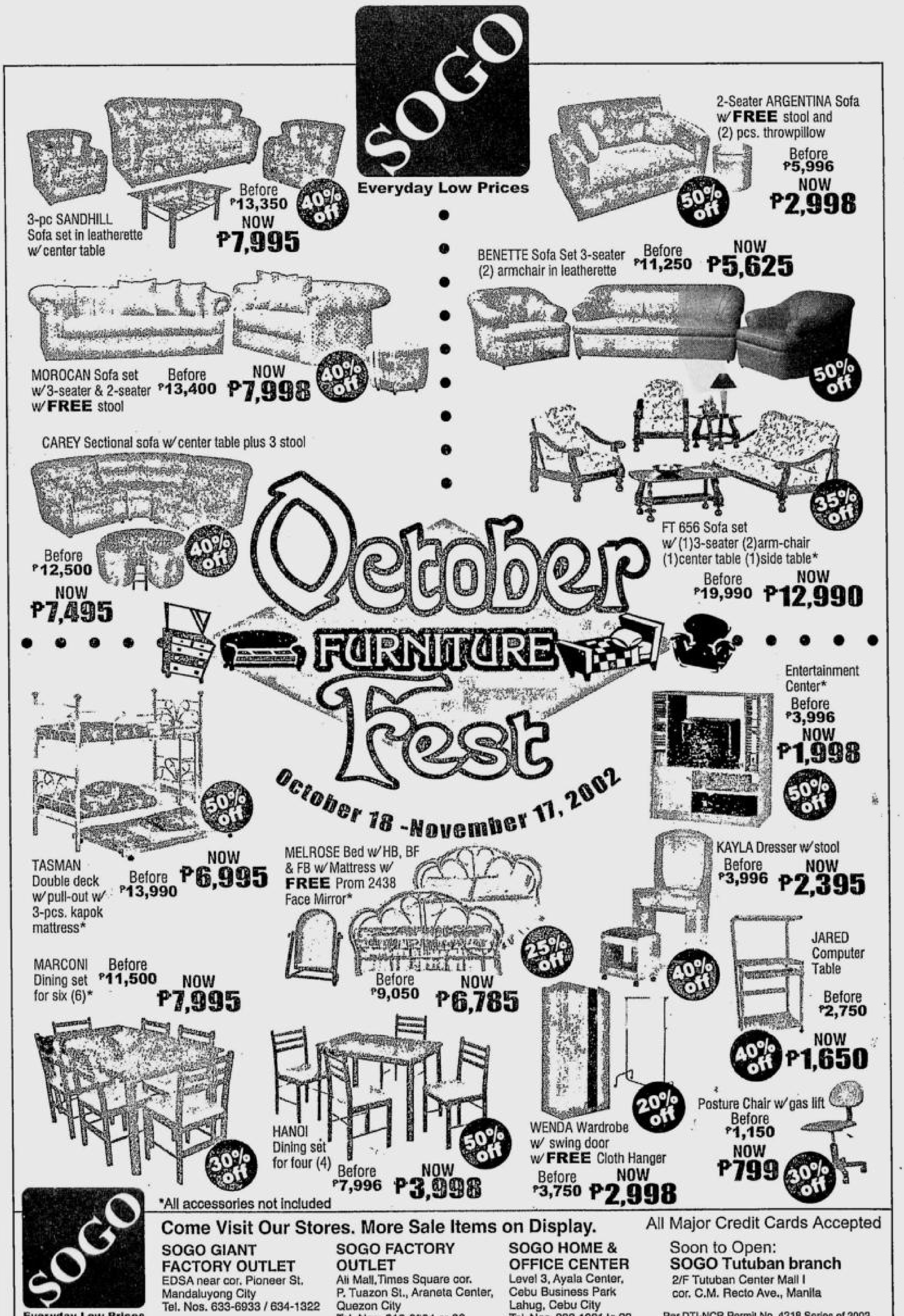
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Wrong reason

EDITORIAL

THE OCT. 12 terrorist bombing in Bali breathed new life to the plan to adopt a national identification card. In the wake of the bombing, the National Security Council endorsed the ID system as a weapon to fight terrorism.

In its unanimous resolution, the council said the ID was necessary to combat terrorism. It said the social security card would serve as the nucleus and data base of the ID system.

The council is using the wrong reason—counter-terrorism—to push for the ID. This reason does not make a stronger case for the ID than reasons that had been previously put forward.

The tracking down of terrorists linked to al-Qaida and their subsequent arrests did not owe their success to the ID system. Thorough and intensive intelligence work, cutting across police and intelligence agencies in several countries, were responsible for the effective crackdown that followed the Sept. 11 attack in New York and Washington. In those manhunts, police found that terrorists were able to board planes which they had planned to hijack as bombers because they used fake documents—including passports—to pass through immigration and security controls.

True, there's a need to combat terrorists. The need is even more urgent following the Bali bombing which exposed the vulnerability of Southeast Asia and Australia to terrorist attacks. Previous to the Bali bombing, it had been thought that bomb attacks would be directed at symbols of capitalism in the West and military installations and facilities linked to Western powers. Now, not only Indonesians but also Malaysians, Filipinos and Singaporeans are fair game in terrorist bombing.

With authorities in the region and experts on terrorism linking the Bali attack to al-Qaida and a radical Indonesian terrorist group, there is clearly a need for closer cooperation among police and intelligence agencies of countries threatened by violent pan-Islamic movements. This response may be aided by security tools, but the ID is hardly the most effective of these tools. Terrorists hijacking aircraft or cars as platforms for bombings have concealed their identities, and so, to justify the ID as a counter-terrorism measure is probably the worst argument to back the proposal.

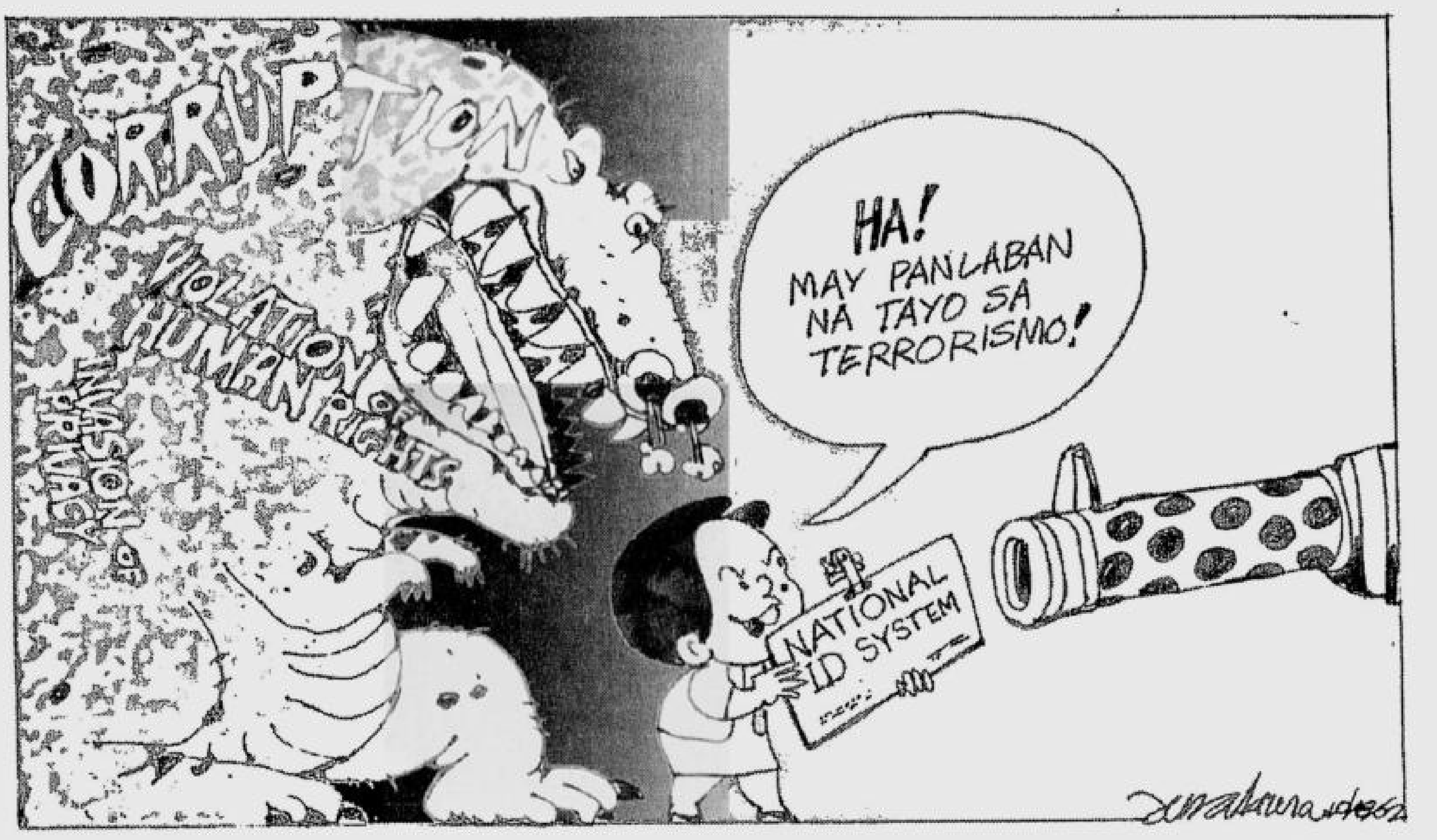
The proposal had its heyday during the Ramos administration, which pushed it as a measure for national security and facilitating transactions between citizens and the government, as well as business transactions, but it encountered strong resistance inspired by fear that the ID could be used for prying into the lives of citizens, for political harassment and for curtailing political rights.

The Ramos project didn't go far after the Supreme Court struck it down on the grounds that such a measure should have been legislated rather than decreed by executive fiat.

To make the measure palatable to Filipinos, who are extremely sensitive to threats to their individual liberties—regardless of whether the threats are magnified and overblown—Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. introduced a national ID bill but with a different reason. The ID could serve as a facilitator of public business. Ostensibly, there's nothing sinister about this objective, but Pimentel's bill did not have any more success than Ramos' project, with the consequence that the bill was mothballed.

The fact that there are already separate ID cards in operation—including the Social Security Card and credit cards—has been used to argue that the data from these systems are already intrusive into the lives of people. Their data, it is argued, can easily be collated and used as a source to check individuals by diligent law-enforcement authorities; hence, the argument goes, a national ID system is mere duplication and unnecessary and would give the state authorities an instrument for political harassment.

Unless proponents of the ID system can present more persuasive arguments than those already asserted—including its use to fight terrorism—the National Security Council's endorsement of the ID is insufficient to overcome resistance being encountered in Congress, which, after all, should be the source of legislative legitimacy of the proposal.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VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
INVASION OF PRIVACY
HA! MAY PANLABAN NA TAYO SA TERRORISMO!
NATIONAL ID SYSTEM

Manila hasn't paid for 2 lots it expropriated

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE LAST two columns were about a government agency cheating foreign retirees who accepted a Philippine government invitation to live and invest here in "blissful retirement." Today's column is about the city government of Manila trying to cheat a family out of two lots which it turned into a public street, P. Casal Street which, ironically is near Malacañang, the presidential palace.

The 1935 and 1987 Constitutions are very clear: "Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation."

Yet here is the city government taking over private property without paying the owners.

It was sometime in 1954 that the City of Manila expropriated two parcels of land from the St. Joseph Hospital with address at Balmes Street, Quiapo. The city government had wanted the lots for use as public streets; they became part of what is now the widely used P. Casal Street.

For nearly 50 years now, hundreds of thousands of motorists and pedestrians have traversed these two lots. Yet it is astonishing that the titles to these two lots have remained in the name of the St. Joseph Hospital up to the present because the city has not paid for them. And since the titles are in the name of the hospital, City Hall is charging it for real estate taxes although the lots are being used by the public. And the Carrascoso family, which owns the lots, have dutifully paid for the taxes all these years.

The St. Joseph Hospital was a corporation established by the Carrascoso family in 1936. When its corporate life expired in 1986, the board entrusted the final winding up process to a trustee, Dr. Fernando Carrascoso Jr., the former general manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Since the St. Joseph Hospital had all along dutifully shouldered the realty taxes over the two lots, Dr. Carrascoso expected the city government to reciprocate and settle its long standing obligation.

What added urgency to the situation was that the Carrascoso family was then wracked by a litigation that involved shareholdings in St. Joseph Hospital. An amicable settlement in 1998 allocated to family members some of the proceeds from money to be paid for the two lots. So unless payment is made, the family dispute remains an open wound.

Mayor Lito Atienza had given favorable assurances to the Carrascosos of a speedy settlement of the debt, and to his credit the necessary transfer papers seemed to materialize very smoothly following the required studies and recommendations from city officials.

But after Atienza's first term, he appears to have forgotten his promise and, in spite of Dr. Carrascoso's spirited reminders, the mayor's enthusiasm to settle the matter has dwindled.

Atienza has expressed sympathy for sidewalk vendors for whom he has set aside parts of public streets as flea markets. Yet here are two private lots that the City of Manila has been using for free as a public street since 1954, and inexplicably the mayor is dragging his feet in the payment of just compensation.

The probable reason: Dr. Carrascoso once ran for Congress in Manila's sixth district (Mark Jimenez's district) under another political party that did not support Atienza.

The bottom line here is justice. The Constitution prohibits the government from taking private property without just compensation. And the government should be the first to obey the Constitution.

Dr. Carrascoso said his family does not want to file criminal, civil and administrative charges against the public officials responsible for the continuing injustice unless they have to.

What the family wants is payment of the fair market value of the two lots that now are part of the busy P. Casal Street in Manila but are still titled in the name of St. Joseph Hospital. Fairness dictates that payment include interest since 1954 and reimbursement of the real estate taxes paid through the years for a property taken by the city and being used by the public.

If new Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo is looking for a worthy challenge to test his resolve, prove his mettle and silence objectors to his appointment, this would be the right opportunity. The Ombudsman can, on his own without waiting for any complaint, investigate and file charges against public officials suspected of wrongdoing.

***

While he's at it, he might as well look at what happened to the Gotesco land scam in Caloocan City. The National Bureau of Investigation finished its probe more than a year ago and recommended the filing of charges against public officials and private persons. The Senate blue ribbon committee which made its own investigation has also recommended the filing of charges. NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco told me some time ago that he had forwarded the NBI findings to the Ombudsman and showed me the acceptance letter of the Office of the Ombudsman. Why has it not moved since then?

***

KAPIHAN NOTES: After the bombings in Menado and Bali, Indonesia, where almost 200 people were killed and many more injured, how safe are we from terrorists? Already forewarned, can we prevent the same thing from happening here? What can the people do to prevent such a tragedy from happening here? What should they do to avoid being caught in the middle of terror acts?

Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane, director general of the Philippine National Police, will give us some answers when he guests at the Kapihan sa Manila this Monday.

Break the silence

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T know what's happening to this country. It's not just that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her "advisers" have been relentlessly unleashing the most reckless and irresponsible polices with respect to the world, thrusting this country willy-nilly into harm's way. It's that nobody has been protesting it.

We do not see the kinds of huge protest rallies that have arisen in the United States and Britain themselves to protest George Bush's and Tony Blair's efforts to conscript the world into war with Iraq. We do not see various groups, particularly the civil society ones, engulfing public discourse with dissenting voices. We do not see individuals or "people of conscience" issuing statements like "Not In Our Name," refusing to allow the government to drag this country to hell presumably for its heaven. All we hear is silence.

A deafening silence while President Macapagal, the undeserving beneficiary of public protest, tries to be more Rambo than everybody else. While Roilo Golez, Angelo Reyes, and Roy Cimatu, generals all, feel free to play Russian roulette with the future of this country rather than with themselves. In case you haven't noticed it, the last three are now in charge of this country's foreign policy.

There's practically no sector of society that won't reap the bitter harvest from the seeds they are sowing. Indeed, there's no institution of society whose principles and beliefs won't be trampled upon, if they are not already being so, by this march of folly.

Not the overseas Filipino workers who stand to be directly and immediately hit by it, and quite literally too. No one can sufficiently belabor that point. The way the National Security Council—truly an Orwellian nightmare, meaning the opposite of what it says—talks, you'd think evacuating Filipinos from Iraq in the event of war is the only thing we need to worry about. In fact, that is the least of our worries. Most of our OFWs work in Muslim countries, the people GMA's and her generals' warmongering—which, like Bush's own, is anti-Muslim, their protestations notwithstanding—turn into targets for terrorist attacks. Remember Bruce Willis in "Die Hard 3" walking around a black ghetto with a sign that says, "I hate niggers"? That is what Filipinos in the Muslim countries will be doing, courtesy of their so-called leaders.

That doesn't include inviting discrimination in work. Or being exposed to more abuse and being more powerless to seek redress for them. I don't know why the OFWs shouldn't be first to speak out against their leaders' long-distance bravado. They can always quote General "Blood and Guts" Patton's men who said: "His guts, our blood."

Not the Catholic Church which seems able to find its voice only on peripheral issues like bold movies, but lapses into silence on life-and-death ones like unilateral war. The Pope himself, frail as he is, has found the strength to warn against the dangers of the Burning Bush. Surely Jaime Cardinal Sin and his protégé, Bishop Socrates Villegas, can do no less? The very essence of Christianity is peace—which we celebrate with particular passion every Christmas—and its modern expression, ecumenism. None of those carols and midnight Masses will mean a thing if we make war our prime directive, our line of least resistance, our very way of life. Which it has now become.

Not the human rights groups who are the first casualty in this parody of anti-terrorism, one that sacrifices everything at the altar of national security. "The so-called Patriot Act," say the signatories of "Not In Our Name," "along with a host of similar measures on the state level, gives police sweeping new powers of search and seizure, supervised, if at all, by secret proceedings before secret courts....Groups are declared 'terrorist' at the stroke of a presidential pen." That is what the National Security Council wants for this country too, if indeed it has not gotten it already. Golez has been at pains to revive the ID system, which has been shot down by several congresses, because of its proneness to abuse. More will follow.

Not the pro-democracy groups who vow never to have martial law—or its disguised forms—imposed on this country ever again. Look at the people who are now dictating policy, national and foreign, and see if they are not military people or people with military mindsets. We live in a state of war without having declared war. We live in a world where to ask questions about the causes of terrorism—or embarrassing ones like who armed Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein to begin with—is to be called a traitor or a terrorist. We live in a world like this, can martial law, or its subterfuges, be far behind?

Not the nationalists who must see how their country's future has been reposed in foreign hands. Not the Muslims whose very faith is presumed to be the fountainhead of terror. Not the women who must see the kinder and more humane world they are trying to build swept away by a tidal wave of gun-fetish. Not the youth who are being raised to look with distrust and hostility at those who live and think differently from them. Not the poor who will be first to take the brunt of hunger brought on by war. Not the citizens who are being paraded before the world as a race of cretins, a people who will not use their Yahweh-given brains to see the world in all its harmony and dissonance, who will not use their Allah-given hearts to stand in solidarity with the world's peoples.

Not all those who marched to Edsa II to bring down a tyranny, youth and senior citizen, businessman and workingman, rich man and poor man, nun and whore, peddler of wares and peddlers of dreams, hoping to build a better and fairer world in its place. Where are your voices?

Come forth, and break the silence.

***

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

After Zamboanga, where next?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE TERRORIST attack in Bali was followed quickly by attacks in Zamboanga City yesterday, giving rise to observations that terrorist organizations are intensifying their violence in the region in order to destabilize and undermine the already fragile economies of Southeast Asia.

The question being asked in the Southeast Asian capitals—Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Manila—is, whether the attacks are synchronized and where will the terrorists strike next. So far, the concentration of violence attributed to extremist groups linked to al-Qaida has been in Zamboanga and Sulu, where military action is taking place, as the military presses its campaign to mop up the Abu Sayyaf remnants.

One would therefore expect the Abu Sayyaf to engage in suicidal terror bombing in retaliation. If we are thinking of targets that would inflict economic damage, then there are enough possible economic targets in central Mindanao, for example General Santos, where security measures might be needed. The Bali bombing indicated that extremist groups are hitting not only civilians but places—like Bali—that are important revenue-producing centers. For all intents and purposes, Bali has been crippled as a tourist mecca and southern Philippines has been dead as a tourist destination.

Zamboanga and Sulu have been reduced to war zones. Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon has been trotting around the globe in a road show to sell the Philippines as a tourist destination. In his campaign, he blamed the lack of infrastructure for the low tourism flow into the Philippines—compared for example to that of Thailand—Gordon is either pulling the wool before the eyes of the Filipino people, making the wrong analysis, or does not understand his job.

In my travel last month to Europe, in which I had interviews in London with businessmen doing business in the Philippines, I gathered that they had three main concerns that discourage investments to the Philippines: law and order, the perception that the Macapagal administration has lost political control; and economic performance. In the overseas press, violence in Mindanao either linked to terrorists or not, delivers shattering blows to confidence in the Philippines and wipes out the economic growth posted in the past two quarters even though our growth looks better than most Asian economies.

Thus, road shows, either conducted by Gordon or the economic managers, are not of much help if violence in the south is unabated or the government cannot put kidnapping for ransom under control in Metro Manila. They are useless and a waste of money.

The bombings in Bali and in Mindanao have already damaging impact on the economy of both areas, and it is hard to see how the establishment of a security monitoring "war room" right in the heart of Malacañang can counter the tide of violence in the south. If, indeed, the bombings are the handiwork of extremist groups linked to al-Qaida, they could be an expression of rising anti-Americanism in Southeast Asia fueled by the campaign of the Bush administration to invade Iraq if it does not dismantle, on tough conditions imposed by the United States, its facilities for the production of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

The terrorist groups do not seem to be coordinating their attacks in this region with Saddam Hussein or taking direction from him. Most likely, they are acting on their own with ample autonomy. The close identification of the Macapagal administration with the war policy of Bush is a possible reason for the rise of terrorist violence in the south. So long therefore that the administration backs the war policy, there is nothing that a "war room" can do to stop the rise of anti-Americanism of the terrorists in the south, as well as of moderate groups of Filipinos, even though they are outraged by the terrorist attacks on civilian centers.

In the aftermath of the Bali bombing, the United States now faces two fronts in the war on terrorism—the campaign against Iraq now being fought in the Security Council, and that against stateless terrorist groups. In the campaign against Saddam, the United States has found a geographical target on which to focus its weapons of mass annihilation on a territorial state—Iraq. The United States could easily over-run Iraq in this mode of war, but in the fight against terrorists, the United States cannot deploy its tremendous firepower on people melting into shadows and slipping across national borders.

The United States cannot retaliate with its military might against the bombers in Bali and in Zamboanga without annihilating civilian populations wholesale. It needs very badly a military victory in Iraq, and it is possible to win this victory by devastating that country. Its military might toppled the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and sent Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida cells on the run, and the United States needs a bigger military victory than was possible in Afghanistan.

But in the effort to bludgeon Iraq into unconditional surrender, the United States is losing friends in Asia and in Europe. The French have become the rallying point of the opposition in the Security Council against the tough disarmament resolution sought by Bush. Bush may have won the campaign inside the United States by receiving bipartisan support from Congress for a resolution authorizing him to go to war in Iraq. But domestic opinion cannot ride roughshod over opposition in the United Nations, which is the only international institution that can give political legitimacy to its reckless military adventurism.

Changing the guard in China's liberation army

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jeremy Page

BEIJING—They're changing the guard at the People's Liberation Army.

When China's Communist Party holds its five-yearly congress in November, it will shake up not only the civilian leadership of the world's most populous nation but the top brass of its largest standing army.

The retirement of septuagenarian generals and promotion of younger replacements more savvy about the West and modern warfare could herald a shift in defense policy and civil-military relations, analysts say.

But when it comes to personnel changes, the military is even more opaque than the party, and rumors are rife that some veteran generals are reluctant to go.

"They are like rats in a bag," said one Western diplomat of the 11-man Central Military Commission (CMC) which commands the 2.5 million-strong PLA.

Much will depend on whether Communist Party chief and state president Jiang Zemin hands his third title—CMC chair, effectively commander in chief of the armed forces—to his heir apparent Hu Jintao.

Jiang is expected to retire from his party posts with other leaders at the congress starting on Nov. 8 under an unofficial agreement not to pursue office after the age of 70.

Six CMC members are over the threshold and could retire at the congress if that age limit is enforced across the board.

Most likely to go are China's top military officer Zhang Wannian, 74, and Defense Minister Chi Haotian, 73, who are CMC vice chairpersons and the only two uniformed members of the party's 21-member executive Politburo.

New appointments are expected at the top of the PLA's four key departments—general staff, logistics, politics and armaments—at a CMC meeting shortly after the congress.

Promotions will reflect a need for well-educated generals with international exposure and better understanding of high-technology warfare than current PLA leaders, whose training was based on "human wave" tactics used in the 1950-53 Korean War, analysts say.

A frontrunner for a CMC vice chairmanship is Gen. Cao Gangchuan, 67, who as head of the General Armaments Department has overseen procurement of high-technology weaponry from Russia.

Barring ill health, the youngest CMC members are in line for promotion. Gen. Guo Boxiong, 60, could take over the general staff department while Gen. Xu Caihou, 59, could become head of the political department, analysts say.

These professional soldiers could also help institutionalize relations between the party and military, says David Shambaugh, an expert on China's military at George Washington University.

The depoliticization of the military means "civil-military relations have entered an entirely new and unprecedented period." "It is quite likely that the so-called fourth generation will continue this trend toward bifurcation," he wrote in a recent paper. "For the PLA, the result will be an increasingly modern and professional military force." "Politically however, whether this trend moves the PLA from being a Party army to being a national army is the big question for the future."

The only potential obstacle to this process is the rumored wish of Jiang, 76, to keep his CMC post so as to retain power from "behind the curtain," as did his predecessor Deng Xiaoping.

Some top generals, many appointed by Jiang, back the idea so they too can keep their CMC positions and maintain their personal influence on decisions about military spending and Taiwan policy, analysts say.

Gen. Fu Quanyou, head of the general staff department, is a candidate for a CMC vice chairmanship despite being 72.

Some say logistics chief Wang Ke, 71, is still a contender.

All state media organs have praised Jiang in the run-up to the congress, but none have been more vocal than the military newspapers, perhaps reflecting such generals' support for him staying on as CMC chair, analysts say.

Hu Jintao's critics say that although he has been CMC vice chair since 1999, he lacks military experience and connections and would have to make concessions to generals to buy their support.

"He has absolutely no standing in the army so he will have to start from scratch," said Ellis Joffe, professor of China studies at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

"The army will have a lot of leverage in relation to him which means more appropriation, modernization and autonomy." Jiang also had no military experience when he became CMC chief in 1989, but purged potential rivals and won the PLA's loyalty by granting them budget rises and a say in policymaking on security issues.

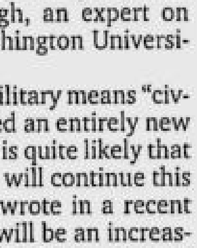
Jiang's continued chairmanship of the CMC would indeed ensure some continuity after the leadership change and maintain the civilian leadership's authority over the military, analysts say.

But it could also foster tension between the military and civilian leadership if Jiang were CMC chair, with Hu serving as his deputy there while taking over as Communist Party chief.

"That would be a step backwards in terms of China's trend toward institutionalization of the leadership," said one Chinese political scientist at Beijing's Tsinghua University.

Hu's supporters say he has established enough military credentials through his role in crushing independence protests in Tibet in the late 1980s and supervising the PLA's withdrawal from its business empire. *Reuters*

Before Magellan



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ONE of the earliest European maps that shows a part of what is now the Philippines is preserved in the British Museum in London. It is basically a sketch by Francisco Rodrigues drawn in Malacca sometime in 1513, that is, eight years before the Magellan expedition. How come this was never taught to me in school? Why does textbook history seem to begin with Magellan? Rodrigues based his sketch on the accounts of both Malay and Chinese traders who visited the Philippines and docked in Malacca. The drawing may not resemble the size and shape of the present Philippine archipelago but looking at it makes me imagine how the Philippines and its inhabitants were described, how stories were embroidered to make this uncharted area a place of wonder and curiosity.

Modern Filipinos will be amused to learn that there was a belief that the Garden of Eden, or the fabled land of Ophir was to be found in the Far East. Thus, when Jose Rizal refers to the Philippines as Nuestro Perdido Eden (Our Paradise Lost), he is not entirely off the mark. The Philippines was one of the candidates for the Garden of Eden, and the yellow, luscious and sweet Philippine mango was the forbidden fruit on the Tree of Good and Evil. Imagine Adam and Eve tempted with a mango instead of an apple. Now that is iconographically radical as renaming what we know as the "California Maki" served in Japanese restaurants as the "Manila Maki." Gene Gonzalez notes that the California Maki is a Japanese roll with pickled rice, *kani* (fish made to look and taste like crab) and avocado. The Filipinos substituted the avocado with our ripe mango, but still called it a "California Maki." It is a "Manila Maki." As you can see, revision is not just for historians but also for chefs and cooks. My brief meeting in Manila with the ambassador of Portugal and a delegation of historians led by Ivo Carniero de Sousa of the Portuguese Center for the Study of Southeast Asia (Cepesa) opened my eyes to another unexplored angle in our pre-Hispanic history. Portugal figures not only in our cartographic history but also in economic history through the Manila-Macau Trade. Then there is a Portuguese footnote in our religious history. While many Filipinos are familiar with the Virgin of Fatima and the story of the Marian apparitions before three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917, few know that an older image of Our Lady venerated in the Ermita Church might be of Portuguese origin.

Textbook history states that when Miguel Lopez de Legazpi came to the Philippines in 1565 he found in Cebu an image of the Sto. Niño being venerated by the people in a hut. This image of Flemish-make has been thought to be the same image Magellan gave the wife of Humabon in 1521. This is proof of the Spanish claim to the archipelago. Later, when Legazpi reached Luzon in 1571, he found an image of the Virgin Mary being worshipped in an area that is now Ermita. Contrary to popular belief, this ancient image of the Virgin Mary is not a pre-colonial *anito* or *likha*. While much has been written about the miracles of the Virgin of Ermita not much is being done to validate the suggestion that this wooden image of European make was brought by unknown Portuguese missionaries. If the Virgin of Ermita antedated Legazpi's arrival, and it is indeed Portuguese, then we do have to revise the chronology of our contact with Europeans. The 16th century Spanish claim over the Philippines is not as firm as we previously thought.

Tome Pires in his Suma Oriental (1513) wrote that: "The Lucoes are about ten days sail beyond Borneo. They are nearly all heathen; they have no king, but are ruled by groups of elders. They are a robust people, little thought of in Malacca. They have two or three junks, at the most. They take the merchandise to Borneo and from there they come to Malacca.

"The Borneans go to the lands of the Lucoes to buy gold, and foodstuffs as well, and the gold which they bring to Malacca is from the Lucoes and from the surrounding islands which are countless; and they all have more or less trade with one another. And the gold of those islands where they trade is of a low quality—indeed very low quality.

"The Lucoes have in their country plenty of foodstuffs, and wax and honey; and they take the same merchandise from here as the Borneans take. They are almost one people...they are a useful people; they are hardworking..."

It has been suggested that the Lucoes is actually Luzon. Pires never visited the Philippines so how could he know? The great Marco Polo (not the Chinese restaurant in Manila) in his narrative, mentions an archipelago of 7,488 islands in the general area of the Philippines. How could Marco Polo provide an exact count of the islands when even the modern Filipino cannot give a round figure without asking whether you want the number of islands during high tide or low tide?

A look into our early history through travel accounts provides a fascinating mix of truth and fiction. My favorite being the account of Ibn Battuta who allegedly visited the Philippines around 1345 and visited the Kingdom of Princess Urduja somewhere north of Java. In 1889, Rizal remarked that Urduja's realm was in the Philippines thus, spinning a curious yarn that led to the Amazon princess being from Pangasinan. There is so much material, so much to read and little time.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

What's wrong with GMA's decision?

COMMENTARY

Nono Alfonso, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE PRESIDENT'S recent decision to suspend indefinitely the scheduled executions in death row comes as a breath of fresh air in this morally deteriorating country. It is a most welcome development.

The official reason given was that the President was only giving in to the request of some members of Congress to suspend any executions while they deliberate on proposals to finally repeal the death penalty law. Others suspect however that there are other reasons behind the suspension decision. One is that the government was trying to impress the European Union ambassadors who came to visit last week. And expectedly, that President Macapagal-Arroyo is yielding to Church pressure on this issue or is probably courting its support especially with the 2004 elections fast approaching.

Whatever the reason, for anti-death penalty advocates GMA's decision is highly acceptable and laudable.

On the part of Congress, there are indeed ongoing initiatives that seek to review the death penalty law which was enacted in 1994. In the House of Representatives, around a hundred representatives led by the committee on civil, political and human rights are pushing for the abolition of the law. In the Senate, Sen. Francis Pangilinan is also confident that the majority is also for the repeal of the law. In the past the single most "persuasive" argument for the imposition of the death penalty was the deterrence argument. According to this argument, criminals would be dissuaded from committing crimes if they knew that once captured, death would be meted out to them as punishment. But as studies upon studies now reveal and as the experience of other countries bear out, this is certainly not true. In the United States alone where the death penalty is part of the law books of most states, crime incidents in states which do impose it are still high compared to states which do not. The correlation therefore between crime prevention and the death penalty is very tenuous. The senators and the representatives now calling for a review of the death penalty law are convinced that this does not wash anymore. Rather, they are of the mind that as in the experience of other countries, the real deterrent to crime is the strict enforcement of laws and the certainty of apprehension, prosecution and conviction of criminals.

In this country there is a great temptation to invoke the continued imposition of capital punishment because of the steady rise in criminal incidents such as the spate of kidnappings in recent months. This in fact is the contention of the minority in Congress who continues to support capital punishment. And yet as many have already pointed out, many of the convicts in death row are there because of rape and not because of kidnappings. Many of them are not part of any syndicate. The executions of those in death row therefore have very little to do with the government's ongoing fight against kidnapping syndicates or terrorism. It is a fallacy that Congress must watch out for.

Observers are giving lots of meaning to the fact that GMA's decision to suspend executions was first mentioned by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople before a group of visiting European ambassadors. They suspect that this move of the President is only a ploy to ingratiate herself and the country to the European countries being represented by these diplomats and perhaps in the process win for us fat economic contracts. It is a ploy that seems to be working indeed. For two days last week, the Colosseum in Rome was lit in recognition of GMA's decision and this event had been noted in many newspapers around the globe. Nonetheless, whether an economic ploy or not, it is significant that the President's decision has been communicated to European countries. Many of these countries have already abolished capital punishment from their penal laws, if only for the reason that for them, the death penalty is against civility; it is a barbaric measure that harks back to the dark ages when crude forms of punishment were in use. For them, the death penalty is vindictive or retributive. It does not constitute rehabilitative justice. For years now, countries in the European continent where the notion of human and civil rights was born, have expressed amazement and dismay over how a progressive country—and a champion of democracy at that—such as the United States can still employ capital punishment. GMA's suspension of executions in death row and hopefully Congress' repeal of the death penalty law can only send a strong signal to the world—we are a civilized nation and we want to join the community of civilized countries.

The "usual suspect" behind GMA's recent decision to suspend executions in death row is the Catholic Church. In the past, Presidents had stayed executions under the heavy influence and pressure of the Church. In the wake of GMA's decision last week, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, has assured the President that the bishops would stay away from the ongoing death penalty debates, saying that although the Church supports current initiatives against the death penalty, it feels that it had said more than enough on this issue. Whether or not GMA's decision however is a move to ingratiate herself to the Catholic Church is beside the point. Certainly, it will not win her in 2004 the Catholic vote which as past elections have shown is only a myth. But the decision nonetheless is consistent with the Church's stand which, as Quevedo claims, has been articulated many times already in the past.

Essentially, the Church opposes capital punishment because it violates the sanctity of human life. No crime, no matter how grave, can justify the killing of the perpetrator of the crime. It is a precious gift that should be treated with the highest respect. It must be carefully valued especially in the face of our very imperfect justice system. In particular, as pointed out by civil society groups, the justice system has shown vulnerability to error by the fact that it has allowed 12 minors to languish in the death row or the obvious fact that many of the convicts are there because they couldn't afford good and competent legal representation. In the face of this fallibility therefore, the sanctity of life must all the more be respected.

Finally, the Church has voiced again and again that capital punishment reinforces the culture of death that is seeping into the value systems of the world. Life is becoming cheap. As the WHO has recently pointed out, violence is on the rise in the world: one person commits suicide every 40 seconds, while another is murdered every 60 seconds and another one dies in armed conflict every 100 seconds. In a bloodthirsty, post-Sept. 11 world, there is a need to reverse this trend, this culture of death by the reassertion of values such as the sanctity of life, peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, before it is too late. GMA's decision to suspend executions and hopefully the abolition of the death penalty by Congress are definitely steps toward this goal.

So unaware of breast cancer month

MOST people I know could not relate to October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As a breast cancer survivor coming into my first year after being diagnosed with the dread disease and putting behind me a dreary experience of chemotherapy and three surgeries, I am ready to take on the world and celebrate my survivorship.

My sister, a nurse working in the United States, told me about the Johns Hopkins Breast Cancer Survivor Retreat scheduled this November in Maryland and urged me to attend it. The event is designed for women like me, who have completed cancer treatment in the last year. The cost to provide the program per person is $360 but with sponsorship money, participants need only to pay the registration fee of $49, which I did. This program is limited to 50 survivors: 25 from Johns Hopkins and another 25 from other institutions across the United States and internationally.

It was with much delight when I received the official invitation and a letter confirming my slot for the Survivor Retreat from the Johns Hopkins director for outreach and education, who is also a breast cancer survivor.

On Oct. 11, 2002 I was at the US Embassy for my non-immigrant visa appointment. After informing the consul of my purpose and presenting the letter confirming my slot for the said retreat, he curtly asked who would be paying for my trip. When I told him that my sister would, he denied my visa application, citing "financial incapability." He then shoved back my documents and said, "You can try again." Granted that I "should not depend on my sister to pay for my trip," the savings reflected in my bank account would have been more than sufficient to pay for a round-trip ticket to the United States. The retreat has already been paid for by sponsorship and funding from the Johns Hopkins Breast Center. The consul also assumed that I would seek medical care in the United States despite my telling him that my cancer is in remission and he also commented that "I have too many relatives" in the United States, which is not quite accurate.

I will miss what I have considered to be a milestone in my life—a defining moment marking my survivorship—all because the embassy man behind Counter 8 defined me solely by the numbers in my bank account, chose not to value my honesty and preferred to be paranoid about brown Filipinos flying the coop. He denied me, not only a visa, but also my fundamental right to access resources to help me deal with survivorship issues and make meaningful connections with women who have lived the same realities as I have.

Cancer has deflected some of my dreams, but I still choose to live substantively, even when people (and there are many, including the one living most of his life behind Counter 8), who out of ignorance or indifference, do not realize the complexity of living with a life-threatening illness like cancer.

Here's to Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

—MA. LEONORA PADILLA MARZAN, 263 Tam-awan, Pinsao Proper, Baguio City 2600

The glory in college basketball

I WAS then studying at St. Theresa's College, San Marcelino, Manila. Among my classmates in Class '38 were Susan Magalona, daughter of Sen. Enrique Magalona; Ines Paredes, daughter of Sen. Quintin Paredes; Consuelo Cuenco, daughter of Sen. Manuel Cuenco. And of course, Conchita Gaston, sister of an Atenean NCAA player. At that time, parents enrolled their sons in Ateneo and their daughters at St. Theresa's College. And of course, we all trooped to the Rizal Coliseum whenever Ateneo played. And of' course, we always carried our rosaries with which we prayed unceasingly, asking the Blessed Mother's intercession for Ateneo's victory.

I remember Fr. Jose A. Cruz, S.J.'s remark when he pulled out the Ateneo team from the NCAA. "It is bad the Ateneans are mauled, but it is worse when the Ateneans themselves maul." Then the Ateneo joined the UAAP.

The UAAP 2002 Championship saw Ateneo's win 70-77. Ateneo's prayer was answered. The Blue Eagles or the Hail Mary Squad made it, never forgetting the Ateneo Sports Code. Allow me to quote:

Dear Lord, in the battle that goes on through life
I ask but a field that's fair
A chance that is equal with all
And courage to strive and to dare
If I should win, let it be by the code
With my head and honor held high
And If I should lose
Let me stand by the road
And cheer as the winners go by

To the Hail Mary Squad, the Jesuits, particularly Fathers Bienvenido Nebres, Catalino Arevalo and Carmelo Caluag—congratulations! From a Theresian who was trained to pray. To Jesus through Mary! (The author's father, uncle, first cousin, three sons are all Ateneans—Spanish time, American time, Filipino time).

—ROMANA LOPES DEL CASTILLO VDA DE NOCHE

What implications do the Indon bombings have for RP?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

SINCE last year, the Philippine Embassy in Indonesia has been bombed twice. Indonesia has been a hotbed for Philippine Embassy bombing. This is the second bombing directed at Philippine interests in that country. I remember that an Indonesian terrorist linked to a well-known terror group also planned and carried out the bombing of the LRT. A warning to us? Or a playground for Asian terrorists since we are the most democratic and identified as a US ally in South East Asia, the most vocal about terrorists and lastly, the most vulnerable of all Asean members due to security lapses and inadequacy? I believe these are the reasons why the terrorists chose to practice on us their skills before carrying it out to the US mainland.—**benjietom**

* * *

Radical Muslims want to create an Islamic super-state composed of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Mindanao. If the majority of Muslims in Indonesia could be convinced that the radicals are correct, then there is a high probability that the Philippine flag might have to remove one of its stars because Mindanao will become part of this new Islamic superstate.—**sulung**

* * *

The defunct United Arab Republic was a dream Muslim superstate, but it crumbled because the emirs and chieftains wanted a bigger piece of the action. Singapore and Malaysia were supposed to unite under one flag, but each one did not trust the other. And there was the Philippine dream of a united Malayan state, the Maphilindo. There will always be dreamers, and your dream will be just one of those that will vanish in your waking hours.—**macapili**

* * *

One big problem, only 15 percent of Mindanao's population are Muslims. The rest are Christians and others.—**JB**

* * *

I think less than that, in fact the total population of Muslims in RP is only 4 percent or less. The areas in Mindanao thickly populated by Muslims are the Jolo-Sulu Islands and part of Zamboanga. In the rest of Mindanao, the majority are Christians. There's no way Mindanao can be an Islamic State; the Christians would fight to the death over that.—**leslie**

* * *

The Christians in Mindanao were planted there by traditional politicians (*trapos*) in the 1950s. The Mindanao Christians are really landless peasants from other islands. That is why most of them speak Cebuano. The Mindanao situation is the same as what the British royalty did centuries ago when they gave land to landless peasants from Scotland but the land was on an island called Ireland. Christians were artificially introduced in Mindanao by the Manila *trapos* as cannon fodder against the Muslims. *Trapos* always think that Filipino lives are cheap but they get upset when foreigners also consider Filipino lives as cheap and could be destroyed for amusement. Indonesians and Malaysians are aware of what the Manila *trapos* did in the 1950s and the radical Muslims are intending to correct the errors.—**sulung**

* * *

The Christians did what the Muslims did prior to the mass migration of Christians to Mindanao during the Edcor program in the '50s. The Muslims, centuries before, who were really inhabiting the Sulu archipelago, forcibly took half of Mindanao from the cultural minorities such as the Manobos, the Tirurays, the Tasadays, etc. These original inhabitants of Mindanao had to go to the hinterlands to escape the onslaught. This explains why they were not converted to the Muslim religion. What the Christians did in the '50s was simply give the Muslims a dose of their own medicine.—**macapili**

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

BLUE CROSS
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Dear Valued CMG Health Card Members,

We are pleased to inform you that CMG Health Co., Inc. recently entered into a service agreement with Blue Cross Health Care Inc., enabling Blue Cross to take over as your service provider and assume administrative control of all CMG Health accounts.

CMG entered into this agreement following a strategic decision by the parent company, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, to concentrate in other markets and core competencies. CMG chose Blue Cross to take over as your service provider in light of the latter's proven commitment to and track record in health care management.

The agreement means that effective December 1, 2002, all CMG Health Card members are to avail of their benefits through the Blue Cross network of accredited doctors and hospitals. Meanwhile, you can still avail of your CMG Health Card benefits through the CMG network until November 30, 2002.

Your current CMG Health coverage and all the benefits as stated in your CMG Health Care agreement remain the same and in force until contract expiry or renewal date; after which you will have the option to avail of a Blue Cross plan, the details of which will be provided by Blue Cross. Please be informed, however, that you can no longer renew to a CMG Health Care Plan.

About Blue Cross Health Care

Established in 1987, Blue Cross Health Care, Inc. specializes in providing health maintenance care services, complementing the medical insurance products of its affiliate, Blue Cross Insurance, Inc. With a network of more than 250 hospitals and 750 accredited doctors supported by hundreds of specialists plus constant process of accrediting more hospitals nationwide, Blue Cross assures each member of speedy, independent and generous treatment when illness strikes.

An active member of the Association of Health Maintenance Organization of the Philippines (AHMOPI), Blue Cross Health Care, Inc. has consistently been awarded as "Most Outstanding Health Care Provider" by the Consumers Union of the Philippines, Parangal ng Bayan and Alay Kay Inay Foundation.

With Blue Cross' commendable track record of excellence, CMG Health is confident that Blue Cross is highly equipped to take over CMG Health accounts and address the members' wide range of medical needs.

CMG Health thanks you for the pleasure and privilege of serving your health care needs.

Blue Cross looks forward to serving you. **WELCOME TO THE BLUE CROSS FAMILY!**

Sincerely yours,

MR. ANTHONY J. MEDCALF
Chief Executive Officer
Blue Cross Group of Companies

MR. SHANE M. McNALLY
President
CMG Health Co., Inc.

Q&A

As the Blue Cross – CMG Health agreement takes into effect, we anticipate that you may have questions regarding your policy. This Q&A is meant to guide you in matters concerning Customer Service, Premium Payments and Policy Benefits.

Q: **Will I still enjoy the CMG coverage that I have right now?**

A: Yes, we have taken great care to ensure that service will not be disrupted. That is why your current CMG coverage and the benefits stated in your CMG Health Care agreement will be honored until its expiry date and for as long as your premium payments are updated. This is in line with the common objective of Blue Cross and CMG Health to provide a seamless transition period.

There may be instances wherein agents of other companies would encourage you to cancel your existing policy and take on a new plan. If this case happens, please contact us before you make any decisions as such proposition may waste your investments in your existing policy. Because we value you and your interests, we want to help you make the right decisions.

Q: **How will this affect my access to the network of service providers (i.e. doctors, hospitals, specialists, dentists)?**

A: Due to the agreement, CMG clients will have to avail of health care services via the Blue Cross network of accredited providers starting December 1, 2002. Blue Cross assures each member of speedy, independent and generous treatment when needed through its 250 accredited hospitals, 750 accredited doctors, and hundreds of specialists nationwide.

Q: **Will I still be able to use my CMG Health Card?**

A: Yes, but only until November 30, 2002. Your Blue Cross Health Card and a list of accredited Blue Cross providers will be sent to you before December 1, 2002.

Q: **Who will be my agent or broker?**

A: We have been taking great lengths to ensure that you will continue to enjoy your benefits including services that you get from your agent or broker. However, should your current agent discontinue his contract with us, we will continue providing the service that you deserve through our account executives or a customer service officer.

Q: **Where can I pay my premium dues?**

A: You may pay your premium in cash, check or credit card. You can make arrangements with your agent/broker or you may settle your account directly at the Blue Cross Center, 8000 Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Q: **Who can I call to inquire about my policies?**

A: Blue Cross will be glad to assist you with your policy needs. A well-trained Transition Team is ready to address your concerns.

Please do not hesitate to call: **Tel. No. 8998001**

- **For renewal:** Erwin Eusebio (loc. 294), Alshem de Castro (loc.814), Gino Vito (loc. 815), Marylord Maranan (loc. 806)
- **For customer service:** Luz Briones (loc. 602)
- **For agent/broker:** Ethel Villapando (loc 296/297)

Please expect to receive via mail further details of the announcement within the next few days.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

North Korea admits developing nuke arms

WASHINGTON—The United States said Wednesday that North Korea had admitted secretly developing nuclear weapons in breach of a 1994 agreement, as the Cold War rivals plunged into their deepest crisis in years.

The startling confession, made to a US envoy early this month, prompted the Bush administration to conclude negotiations with Pyongyang were impossible for the moment, State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said.

President George W. Bush now faces the potential of an alarming crisis with a state he has branded as one-third of an "axis of evil" as he confronts a possible war with Iraq and a campaign against global terrorism.

The admission could also deal a fatal blow to South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung's "sunshine policy" of engagement with the North and threatens Pyongyang's new dialogue track with Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

North Korean officials admitted they had continued to develop nuclear weapons after they were presented with evidence of the program in talks earlier this month with senior State Department official James Kelly.

Kelly told North Korea "we had recently acquired information that indicates that North Korea has a program to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons in violation of the Agreed Framework and other agreements," Boucher said.

"North Korean officials acknowledged that they have such a program."

Pyongyang tried to blame Washington and said they considered the 1994 deal, known as the Agreed Framework, "nullified," Boucher said.

"The United States and our allies call on North Korea to comply with its commitments under the Nonproliferation Treaty, and to eliminate its nuclear weapons program in a verifiable manner," Boucher said in the statement.

"We seek a peaceful resolution of this situation. Everyone in the region has a stake in this issue and no peaceful nation wants to see a nuclear-armed North Korea.

"North Korea's secret nuclear weapons program is a serious violation of North Korea's commitments under the Agreed Framework as well as under the Nonproliferation Treaty."

Pyongyang was also in violation of the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement, and the Joint North-South Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, Boucher added.

Kelly went to Pyongyang prepared to tell North Korean officials Washington would offer economic and political steps if the North was prepared to dramatically alter its behavior.

Washington wanted North Korea to make concessions on issues including weapons of mass destruction, development and export of missiles, support for terrorism and the "deplorable" treatment of its people, Boucher said.

"In light of our concerns about the North's nuclear weapons program, however, we are unable to pursue this approach." *AFP*

US President Bush gazes out at North Korea in the demilitarized zone separating the two Koreas in this Feb. 20, 2002 file photo.

AP

Dialogue could defuse crisis, says S. Korea

SEOUL—South Korea on Thursday called for dialogue to defuse a crisis sparked by North Korea's shock admission that it has been secretly developing nuclear weapons.

Pyongyang made the admission when confronted by evidence of their nuclear program by US envoy James Kelly during a recent visit to North Korea, according to the US government.

The State Department said North Korea confirmed the suspicions and considered that it was no longer bound by a 1994 agreement freezing its nuclear program.

South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Tae-Sik said Thursday: "We urge North Korea to abide by all agreements including the Geneva accord (of 1994 freezing its nuclear program) and the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"All problems related to North Korea's nuclear development should be solved peacefully through dialogue."

South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung is committed to reconciliation with the North under his so-called "Sunshine Policy" and the North Korean admission is seen as a major setback to the process.

However, presidential officials cast the North Korean admission in a different light. Until now, North Korea has vigorously denied having a nuclear weapons program.

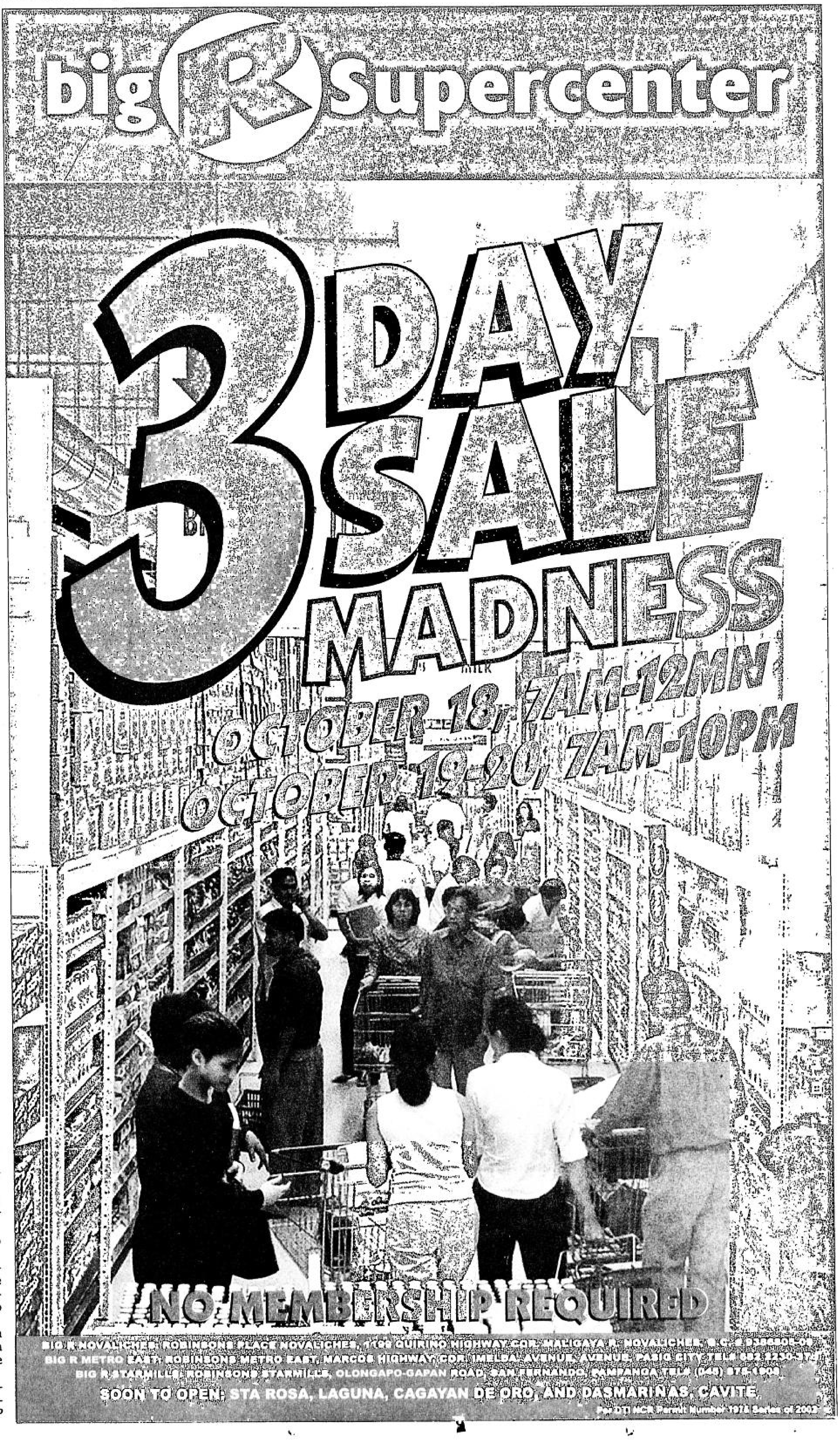
"The government is taking note of the fact that North Korea has frankly admitted to having a nuclear development program," said Yim Sung-Joon, senior presidential secretary for foreign affairs and security.

"We believe that North Korea is willing to resolve the issue through dialogue."

The shock admission comes one month after the North came clean for the first time that it had abducted Japanese nationals during the 1960s and 1970s and used them to train North Koreans to spy on Japan.

After years of angry denials, that revelation came from the North's paramount leader Kim Jong-Il during a meeting in Sept. with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

It was seen as a sign that the North was serious in seeking to break with its past and improve ties with Japan and South Korea. *AFP*



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Per DTI NCR Permit Number 1978 Series of 2002

Dutch government collapses

THE HAGUE—Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende handed his government's resignation to Queen Beatrix on Wednesday evening after his ruling coalition succumbed to infighting within the party of murdered populist Pim Fortuyn.

The government collapsed within 100 days of taking office after the resignations of Deputy Prime Minister Eduard Bomhoff and Finance Minister Herman Heinsbroek earlier on Wednesday, following weeks of public squabbling in a battle to control the List Pim Fortuyn (LPF).

"I have done everything I could to find a solution to this crisis but I did not succeed," Balkenende told the country's parliament before officially requesting its dissolution from the Dutch queen, paving the way for fresh elections as early as December.

The government's official resignation came as a new opinion poll appeared to confirm analysts' predictions that Balkenende's Christian Democrats (CDA) stand to benefit the most from a recent slump in LPF support.

The survey by SBS6 television, conducted after the resignation was first announced, suggested the CDA would remain the strongest party in the 150-seat parliament if the election were held today, adding eight seats to its current 43.

The LPF, in contrast, would founder, losing all but four of its 26 seats.

Other winners in an impromptu poll would be the junior coalition partner, Gerrit Zalm's right-wing liberal VVD, which would win 28 seats up from its current 24, while the social democratic opposition PvdA would gain five seats to hold a total of 28. *AFP*

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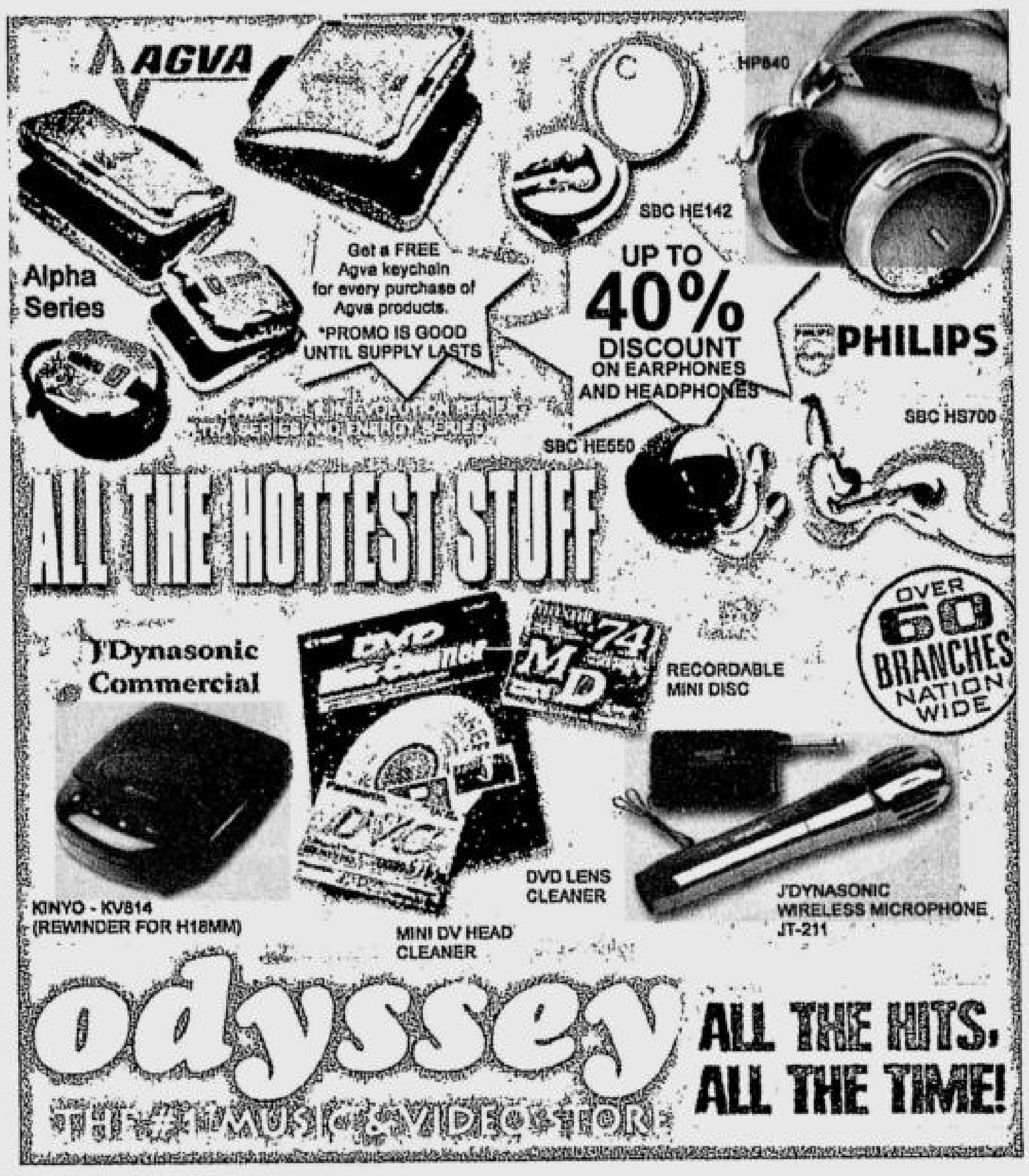
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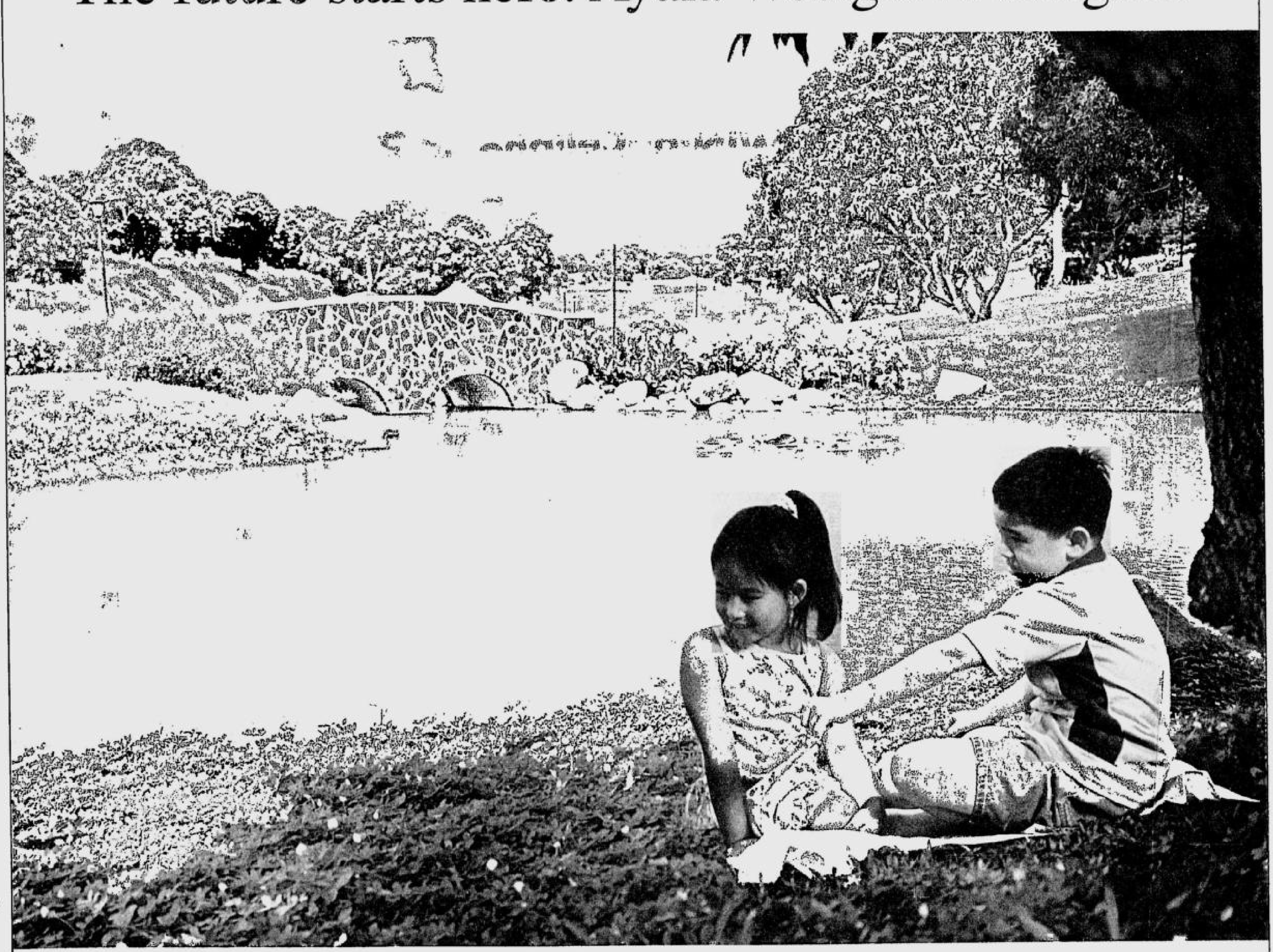

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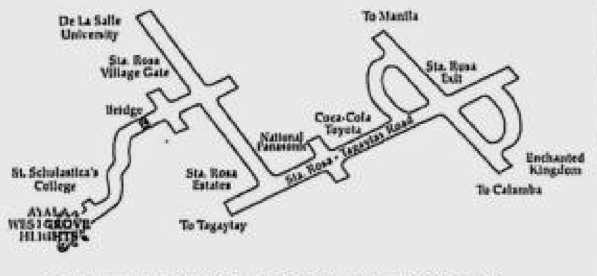

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Ivory Coast rebels ready to sign truce

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast—After repeated delays, rebels who launched Ivory Coast's bloodiest uprising agreed Wednesday to sign a truce with the country's embattled government, West African mediators said.

The envoys planned to fly from the commercial capital, Abidjan, to the central rebel-held city of Bouake on Thursday for the signing, said Mohammed Ibn Chambas, executive secretary of the regional economic bloc behind the initiative.

They will be accompanied by a Cabinet minister who will sign on behalf of the government, he said. It was not immediately clear which minister that would be, or who would sign for the rebels.

An earlier attempt for a cease fire foundered at the last minute on the government's insistence the rebels disarm first.

The new plan—initiated by Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, who heads the Economic Community of West African States—calls for the rebels to confine themselves to barracks, with their weapons, so peace talks can begin.

Government and rebel officials did not immediately comment on the announcement.

President Laurent Gbagbo has already said his government accepts the mediators' proposals. The rebels indicated on Sunday that they also agreed "in principal" to the plan, but took four days to give final confirmation they would sign—forcing mediators to repeatedly postpone their trip to Bouake. *AP*

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  Every cylinder swap - 1 raffle coupon
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- There will be three monthly draws:

Monthly Draws	Schedule of Monthly Draws
First	November 29, 2002
Second	January 10, 2003
Third	January 30, 2003

Monthly Draws	Deadline for Submission of Entries
First	November 15, 2002
Second	December 26, 2002
Third	January 15, 2003

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Northwest Luzon	- PSPC Rabon LPG Depot, Rabon, Rosario, La Union
Central Luzon	- PSPC San Fernando LPG Depot, Mac Arthur Highway, Brgy. Sindalan, San Fernando, Pampanga
North Metro	- PSPC Valenzuela LPG Depot, Tatalon St., Barrio Ugong, Valenzuela, Metro Manila
Central Metro	- PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
South Metro	- PSPC Pandacan Installation, Jesus St., Pandacan, Manila
Southern Tagalog	- PSPC Alaminos LPG Depot, Km. 71 Maharlika Highway, Brgy. San Juan, Alaminos, Laguna
Bicol	- PSPC Pamplona LPG Depot, National Highway, Pamplona,CamarinesSur
Cebu/Bohol	- PSPC Cebu Regional Sales Office, Unit 901, Keppel Center, Cardinal Rosales Ave. cor. Samar Loop, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
Western Visayas	- PSPC Lapus Installation, La Paz, Iloilo City
Samar/Leyte	- PSPC Anibong LPG Depot, Rawis, Anibong, Tacloban City
North Mindanao	- PSPC Villanueva LPG Depot, PHIVIDEC Compound, Villanueva, Misamis Oriental
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.2510 Series of 2002

Dozens of countries oppose US policy on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS— The United States came under a barrage of criticism Wednesday as the Security Council held an open debate at the behest of dozens of countries angry with the Bush administration's threat to attack Iraq.

Key US allies in the Middle East, including Kuwait—which was invaded by Saddam Hussein's forces in 1990—came out against the use of military force in Iraq and called on Washington to give UN weapons inspectors a chance to disarm the oil-rich nation.

Iraq's other neighbors, from Iran to Jordan and the Persian Gulf states, warned that a military strike would further destabilize the volatile Middle East for years to come.

Even close friends such as Japan, Australia and the European Union refrained from supporting America's efforts to win authorization in a new UN resolution for a military strike if inspections fail.

But UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan supported the US search for a new resolution that would toughen weapons inspections and he urged Baghdad to use this "last chance."

The US ambassador is scheduled to address the council on Thursday but in Washington, President George W. Bush said world leaders needed to "face up to our global responsibilities."

"Those who choose to live in denial may eventually be forced to live in fear," Bush said, as he signed a Congressional resolution authorizing him to use force against Iraq.

The Security Council's five permanent, veto-holding members are divided over how to proceed on Iraq now that it has agreed to the return of inspectors after nearly four years.

The United States, supported by Britain, has spent the past month pushing for a new Security Council resolution which would authorize the use of force if Iraq fails to comply with a tough, new inspections regime.

But France, China and Russia are opposed to any "green light," that would allow the administration to attack Baghdad before its sincerity can be tested on the ground.

France has garnered serious support from China, Russia and influential Arab countries for a proposal only authorizing the possible use of force if inspectors complain about Iraq's compliance.

Hoping to reach a compromise, the United States has been holding secret consultations with the four other major powers, to the exclusion and often frustration of other UN members, who feel in the dark on what could be the eve of a major conflict.

In an effort to force a public accounting on the Iraq debate, the Non-Aligned Movement of some 115 mainly developing countries called for Wednesday's open meeting to criticize Washington's position and its handling of the issue here. Nearly 70 countries are expected to speak over two days.

South African Ambassador Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo, whose country heads the movement, opened Wednesday's debate by criticizing the closed-door process. "This can only lead to the erosion of the authority and legitimacy of the Security Council." *AP*

Police fail to produce sketch of Beltway sniper

WASHINGTON—Darkness and distance prevented witnesses to the latest suburban Washington sniper shooting from giving a coherent picture of the gunman to police, dampening hopes for a breakthrough in the case on Wednesday.

As the military joined the search for the elusive sniper, police said they had been unable to produce a composite sketch of the suspect a day after expressing confidence that information from Monday night's shooting would ultimately lead to an arrest.

"They have no description of a suspect at this point," Montgomery County police spokesperson Nancy Demme told reporters in suburban Maryland, referring to the attacker who has killed nine people and critically injured two in the Washington area since Oct. 2. The sniper first struck in Montgomery County, killing five people in a 15-hour spree.

The last shooting, which took place on Monday evening at a shopping center in Falls Church, Virginia, killed 47-year-old FBI analyst Linda Franklin as she loaded purchases into her car, with her husband nearby.

An impromptu memorial of flowers, American flags and candles grew up at the parking space where Franklin was gunned down. By Wednesday, authorities had moved the memorabilia to the entrance to the parking lot as the investigation proceeded.

Demme acknowledged that several witnesses said they saw the shooter on Monday, but their accounts varied so widely that no composite sketch could be produced.

"Unfortunately, because of darkness and distance and perhaps excitement and adrenaline at the time, they were unable to come up with a composite. There are no composites available of the shooter," Demme said.

One witness was convinced that the shooter carried an AK-74 assault rifle, but Demme warned people against narrowing the search to this weapon.

In the event of future shootings, Demme gave guidance to potential witnesses.

"If you hear the sound of a gunshot, I want you to get down and seek cover," she said, stressing the need for safety.

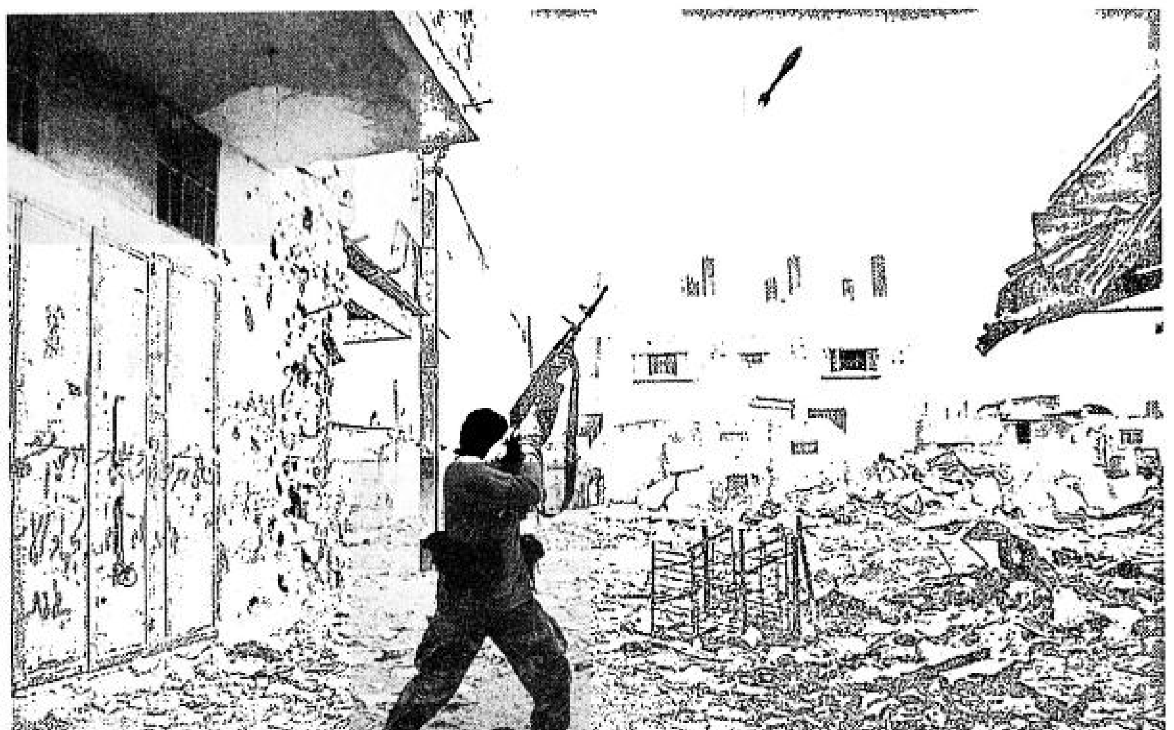
"Look in the direction of the sound, make a mental note of the persons or the vehicles in the area . . . Commit what you saw to memory, have a pen available on your person and if paper is not available, write it on your hand." In addition to eyewitnesses and a multi-pronged manhunt that includes hundreds of local police, the FBI and the federal bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, US military spy planes were authorized to join the search on Wednesday.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld approved the unusual deployment of military surveillance aircraft, specifically the RC-7B plane, which has been used to hunt drug traffickers in Latin America and monitor the North Korean military from South Korean airspace.

But the American Civil Liberties Union, which on Wednesday launched a campaign to rein in what it saw as the Bush administration's "erosions of our liberty," raised questions about the propriety of US military involvement in the investigation.

"We are monitoring what the Department of Defense may do in providing support to the sniper investigation," said Laura Murphy, director of the ACLU Washington office.

Under US law, the military can provide equipment, supplies, technical assistance and training to domestic law enforcement agencies, but it cannot be involved in making arrests or other such direct civilian police work. *Reuters*



A MASKED Palestinian militant shoots a rocket from his gun towards Israeli tanks near the border with Egypt during clashes in the Rafah refugee camp Oct. 16 in southern Gaza Strip. Eight Palestinians were wounded during the clashes.
GETTY IMAGES

Sharon vows to work for return of seized Palestinian revenue

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon agreed in Washington talks with George W. Bush on Wednesday to work for the return of Palestinian revenue confiscated during the two-year-old Palestinian uprising.

Sharon's White House visit was aimed in part at smoothing rare friction between Israel and the United States over its military hammerlock on Palestinian cities and Palestinian civilian casualties incurred in army raids on militants.

The US president was believed to be keen to get Sharon's assurances that Israel would try to avoid aggravating conflict with Palestinians that could hinder Washington's uphill struggle for Arab support for a campaign to disarm Iraq.

Bush, speaking to reporters along with Sharon after the talks, defended Israel's right to hit back if targeted by Iraqi missiles in any US-led war against Saddam Hussein.

But aides at the White House later clarified that the Bush administration hoped Israel would hold its fire to help keep any Arab allies on side in a conflict with Baghdad.

In the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, Jewish settlers evacuated a rogue outpost after a short standoff with Israel's Defense Ministry, which wanted them out as an apparent gesture to Washington before the Bush-Sharon meeting.

The proliferation of Jewish settlements, built on West Bank and Gaza Strip lands occupied in the 1967 Middle East war, was among the main sparks of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation launched two years ago.

Settlers have often been targeted by Palestinian militants.

The international community widely regards settlements as illegal. Israel disputes this.

Bush pressed Sharon to take steps to ease the humanitarian plight of Palestinians, whose livelihoods have been ruined by curfews and blockades imposed on West Bank towns in response to suicide attacks by militant groups spearheading the revolt. *Reuters*

India to pull out troops from border

NEW DELHI—India will withdraw some troops from its border with Pakistan, but not along the volatile ceasefire line that divides the nuclear-armed rivals in disputed Kashmir, the government said Wednesday.

The step appeared aimed at easing tension that nearly led to war last summer, and follows the return to India of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was pressed by European Union leaders last week to move toward dialogue with Pakistan.

Defense Minister George Fernandes ruled out any new talks, however, when he announced the troop movements.

"There is no question of a dialogue with Pakistan as long as Pakistani terrorism continues," he said after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, headed by Vajpayee. "There is no question of a diplomatic initiative."

India accuses Pakistan of arming, funding and training Islamic militants who cross the frontier to make attacks in India's portion of Kashmir. Pakistan denies the charge. The United States has said, however, that rebels are continuing to cross the 1972 Kashmir ceasefire line, or Line of Control, established after one of the three wars the two nations have fought since independence from Britain in 1947.

Kashmir is the only Muslim-majority state in predominantly Hindu India. Rebels have been fighting for nearly 13 years for Kashmir's independence or merger with Muslim Pakistan in a conflict that has claimed more than 61,000 lives.

Pakistan called the troop withdrawal announcement a "positive move," but said India should also remove its troops from the Kashmir ceasefire line. *AP*

UN urged to prevent genocide in Congo

NAIROBI—Human rights group Amnesty International urged the UN Security Council on Thursday to prevent "genocide" in northeastern Congo where it accuses the Ugandan army of involvement in mass killings and targeted rape.

The United Nations will meet on Thursday to discuss a report by the United Nations Mission in Congo (MONUC) on the situation in the giant country, where four years of war has led to massive human rights abuses.

"There have been mass killings and targeted rapes based on ethnic identity," Amnesty International Secretary-General Irene Khan said in a letter to the UN.

Armed clashes between members of the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups has killed an estimated 50,000 people, mainly civilians, since June 1999 and forced around 500,000 people to flee Ituri province in northeastern Congo province, Amnesty said. *Reuters*

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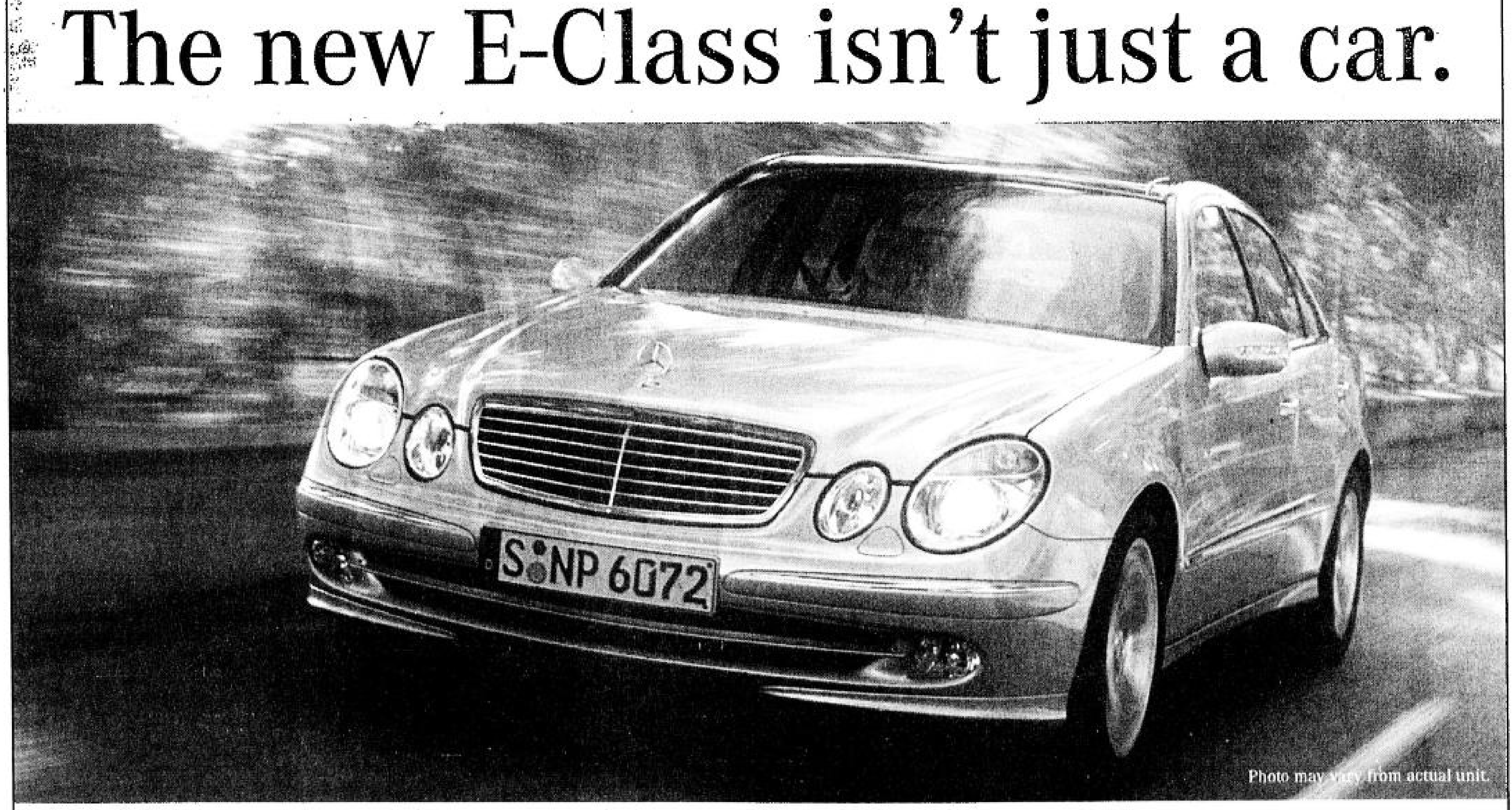

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HIV-positive women seen with US GIs

ANGELES CITY—Eight women, earlier confirmed positive for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), were seen escorting some American servicemen participating in the ongoing military exercise "Talon Vision" on Fields Avenue, the city's main red light district.

Two bar managers of Fields Avenue's biggest entertainment clubs revealed this information to reporters on Wednesday night.

They made the disclosure because they said they were worried about the health repercussions of the activities of the eight women.

The eight women used to work in bars managed by the two managers. They were among those who went out on regular dates with an American who was also confirmed infected by HIV.

The American, a native of Oklahoma, left the Philippines last June after immigration authorities tracked him down.

According to the bar managers, the eight women went out on dates with the first batch of visiting American troops who arrived in Clark last week.

Talon Vision, a two-week war game, began last Monday.

Their pimp was a Filipino man whom the bar managers declined to name.

"I was surprised to see them. The (Angeles City government's) social hygiene clinic advised them to go back to their (respective) provinces but they're here and actively working," said one of the bar managers.

But Dr. Teresita Esguerra, chief of the city's social hygiene clinic, found the claims of the two bar managers as "improbable."

She said only two HIV positive women were working on Fields Avenue. One of them, she said, had left the city for her hometown.

Esguerra said they would check these reports.

Col. Chuck O' Neill, chief of the US Marine Corps training now at Clark, said they have no knowledge of these reports.

"We've had no knowledge of that. This is the first time I've heard of that. And I would question the truth and the source because we have no knowledge of that," he told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

US troops, he emphasized, have regular instructions on health protection. No American soldier had gone out of Clark since the exercise began on Monday, he added.

O' Neill confirmed, though, that some commercial sex workers were being brought inside Clark.

"I think some of that has occurred and we're trying to stop that," he said, without giving details.

Some 800 soldiers, stationed in Clark and in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, have been barred from leaving the exercise venues as a safeguard against attacks by terrorist or communist groups.

The bar managers said they have alerted local health authorities about the activities of the eight women. It was not immediately known if US military officials had ordered health tests.

They said they raised the alert because they were worried about the rising cases of HIV and AIDS infection in the city. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Church heads lament lukewarm anti-war mood

BAGUIO CITY—So far only mainstream Filipino churches have made clear their opposition to a US war on Iraq.

But the real "tough act" to follow is getting the members of various churches to support this position, a Protestant bishop said here.

Bishop Allan Ray Sarte of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) said public support for an anti-war campaign had been lukewarm, despite the clear anti-war positions of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and the National Council of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP).

"This is the character of the Filipino. If something does not directly concern them (like world peace or peace with communist groups),, they won't participate. But when they realize they are paying more power bills or water bills or transport bills or food bills, the Filipino marches to the streets," said Fr. Israel Rada of the Philippine Independent Church.

But many religious denominations, including the Catholic Church, are now rushing grassroots consultations to draw public interest "in officially rebuking an imminent American military campaign against Iraq and the Philippine government's subservience to the US agenda," Sarte told the INQUIRER.

Rada said: "It had been disappointing, although I have started issuing homilies on the subject already so the seeds are being planted."

Sarte said a US-Iraq war would justify "further US intervention in the Philippines," and might discourage further peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines, the National Democratic Front and the New People's Army, which were included in a US list of foreign terrorist organizations.

Sarte, Rada, Fr. Andres Cosalan of the Roman Catholic Church, Rev. James Cerdenola of the Lutheran Church and Rev. Judith Aniceto of the UCCP Northern Luzon jurisdiction led an ecumenical liturgy at the Malcolm Square to push for global peace and to commemorate Tribal Filipino month.

Aware that American troops had arrived in Central Luzon for the "Talon Vision 02" exercises, the churches offered "peace tokens" taken from the indigenous Filipino cultures like *tapuey* (rice wine) and rice cakes to symbolize the tribal communities' objections.

They also offered a spear and shield as symbols for peace, after noting that these "war instruments have since been turned into picks and shovels reflecting the modernizing Cordilleran." *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 minors plead guilty of rebellion

TAGBILARAN CITY—A Regional Trial Court (RTC) judge here has meted suspended sentences for two minors who pleaded guilty of rebellion after they were arrested and charged with seven others following a raid in Barangay Candasig, Balilihan, Bohol on May 8.

The two minors, a 17-year-old-girl and a 16-year-old boy, will instead undergo "rehabilitation" under the supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Bohol RTC Judge Teofilo Baluma, in a five-page decision last week, ruled that since the two are minors and have freely entered their plea of guilt with the consent of their parents, they should not be made to serve their prison sentence of from six to eight years.

In a separate order, Baluma approved the recommendation of social workers to place the boy at the Regional Rehabilitation Center for the Youth, a facility run by the DSWD in Barangay Candabong, Argao, Cebu.

The girl will be placed at the Regional Haven of the DSWD in Labangon, Cebu City.

Baluma ordered the DSWD's social services and counseling division to monitor the compliance by the two minors with the measures taken to suit their rehabilitation and welfare and to submit status and progress reports on the two minors regularly to the court. *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Ill-fated jeep packed with 61 passengers

ILAGAN, Isabela—The driver of the jeepney that slammed into a tree in a remote village here on Tuesday admitted that he overloaded his vehicle with 61 passengers and failed to control it when it lost its brakes when he was negotiating a rough terrain in Barangay Alinguigan here.

The accident killed 12 passengers, mostly children, and injured more than 30 others.

Oscar Ulnagan said it was the first accident that he met in 10 years as a professional driver.

Ulnagan, who was detained at the Ilagan municipal jail after being treated for cuts and bruises, is facing charges of multiple homicide and serious physical injuries.

His jeepney could accommodate only about 32 passengers but Ulnagan allowed passengers to occupy the jeepney's aisle and its roof, reports said.

Police, hospital and local government records identified 11 fatalities—Janine Corpuz, Maryjane Santiago, Raffy Corpuz, Dante Pascua, Eric Bautista, Ariel Antonio, Rona Tortosa, Marcelina Antonio, Rogerson Rumbaoa, Evelyn Rumbaoa and Corazon Acoba.

Officials are still confirming the death of another victim, whose name was not immediately known. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

OIL PRICE PROTESTS

Drivers ready Iloilo transport strike

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Public transport in this city is expected to be paralyzed on Monday when transport groups hold a strike in protest of oil price increases.

Leaders of the Iloilo City Alliance of Drivers Association (Icada) told a news conference yesterday that they would stop plying their routes starting midnight Monday until midnight the following day.

Icada has 19 member-associations of jeepney operators and drivers plying the routes in the city. It has at least 6,000 members.

Operators and drivers associations of taxicabs, tricycle and pedicabs are also joining the strike.

Nick Dalisay, Icada vice president, said the strike is in protest of soaring prices of petroleum products, which have risen seven times since March.

Jun Abellon, spokesperson of the Pinag-isang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (Piston) on Panay Island, said the total increase in oil prices reached P2.31, reducing the monthly income of drivers by P1,155.

"This is equivalent to one sack of rice for their families who could hardly make ends met," he said.

The transport groups are also calling for a P1 fare increase if oil prices will not be rolled back by P2 per liter.

"We are forced to ask for a fare increase because our families are starving," said Edgar Salarda, president of the Jaro United Drivers Association, a group of drivers operating one of the city's main routes.

Ireneo Aaron Jr., chair of the Transport Solidarity Against Unjust Policy and Excessive Revenues (Tsuper), said the strike will be "peaceful."

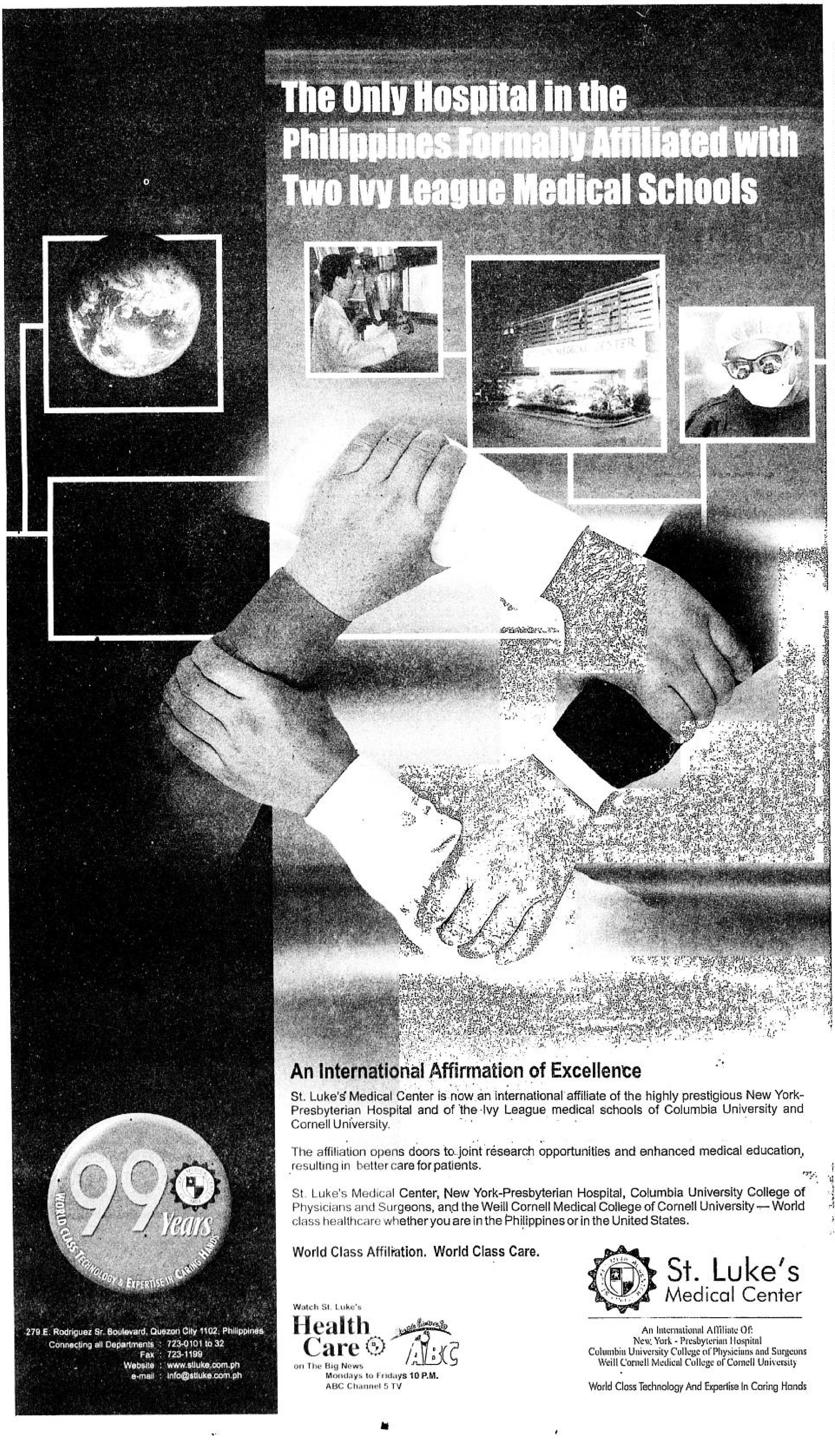
He said vehicles will be available in the offices of the drivers' associations to ferry passengers in cases of emergencies.

The leaders of the transport groups said the strike is also in protest of "excessive" fines and fees being imposed by government agencies and traffic enforcers.

"It is apparent that the traffic problem is being addressed through the non-stop apprehensions based on the erroneous assumption that one of the major factors causing the traffic problem is the lack of discipline of the drivers," he said.

The transport groups said drivers and operators are also reeling from penalties imposed for violations of the Seat Belt Act.

An average of 100 jeepney drivers are apprehended daily with a fine of P260 each, amounting to P572,000 per month, an Icada position paper said.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ROUNDUP

Eviction notice

BOCAUE, Bulacan—Local officials have sent eviction notices to 200 sidewalk vendors and businessmen whose establishments encroach on the shoulders of the MacArthur Highway here. The move was aimed at easing traffic flow along the MacArthur Highway from Barangay Wakas to Lolomboy. Officials said that stretch always suffers from heavy traffic jams, especially during the Christmas season, when demand for the town's firecrackers and pyrotechnic products is high. Mayor Eduardo Villanueva Jr. said they have given the vendors until the end of this month to leave and look for alternative locations.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

DAR feud goes on

REGIONAL directors of the Department of Agrarian Reform appealed to members of the employees' union of the department to buckle down to work and stop holding rallies against Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza. In a statement, the regional directors said the union should just await the decision of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission on a case that the union filed against Braganza. "As public servants, we owe the public our commitment to do our jobs the best we can," said a manifesto signed by the directors. In a separate statement, the DAR Employees' Association (Darea) said although the union holds rallies, these are held during break time and do not impede work in the department. "We still continue serving the farmers but the problem is the department is now a garrison state. Farmers in slippers with no ID can no longer enter while landlords in expensive cars are saluted by security guards," said Darea head Violeta Bonilla in a statement.

Suspected NPAs nabbed

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Palayan City—Policemen and Army soldiers on Monday arrested six suspected members of the New People's Army in Pampanga and Tarlac. Army reports said the suspects, who were new recruits of the NPA, were also members of the Salaguinto Gang, a group selling fake gold bars in Central Luzon. Maj. Gen. Alberto Braganza, the Army's 7th Infantry Division commander, identified the suspects as Jomar de la Cruz, Petot de la Cruz, Bernard Sumaoang, Hasley Sumaoang, Armando Ocampo and Benny de la Cruz. Recovered from them were several pieces of fake gold bars, eight shotguns, a .30 cal. Springfield sniper rifle, a .45 cal. pistol and a .38 cal. revolver.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Woman dies in mishap

BAGUIO CITY—A woman was killed while two others were hurt after they jumped out of a bus that suffered mechanical trouble along the Halsema Highway in Buguias, Benguet, on Monday. Reports from the regional Office of Civil Defense identified the fatality as Aida Cristina Dangkeo, 60. Two other passengers, Faustina Bolislis and Jane Felipe, were hurt and taken to the Benguet General Hospital in La Trinidad town. Vicente Tomazar, OCD regional director, said the three passengers, all from Mankayan town, panicked and jumped out of the Baguio-bound Sunshine Bus when it suffered a mechanical defect while negotiating a sharp curve. Tomazar said the bus skidded toward a ravine.

Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Medical mission

THE ROTARY Club of Baguio Summer Capital (District 3790) and the Lions Club of Paradise Valley, San Diego, California, will conduct a medical, surgical and dental mission at the Venus Resort, Talavera, Nueva Ecija on Nov. 3. Free medicine and medical services will be provided by select medical specialists from the US, Manila and Baguio City. Registration starts at 7 a.m. For details, contact Rey Anthony Leung, MD, president, Rotary Club of Baguio Summer Capital c/o Saint Louis University Hospital of the Sacred Heart, Assumption Road, Baguio City at Tel. Nos. (074) 444-7693 (office), (074) 442-4340 (residence).

Subpoena power

LEGAZPI CITY—The provincial council of Albay has passed a resolution seeking power to issue subpoena to individuals who are subject of or involved in issues being deliberated upon in its regular sessions. This developed after several invitations by Albay council members were snubbed by some department heads and other individuals on several occasions. Acting Vice Gov. Gigi Manzanilla said they already forwarded the resolution to the office of President Macapagal-Arroyo Oct. 10.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Army says NPAs prey on ordinary folk to raise funds

TACLOBAN CITY—New People's Army guerrillas have stepped up their extortion activities, according to top Army official in Eastern Visayas.

Col. Eusebio Ramos, commanding officer of the 802nd Infantry Brigade based in Burauen town, Leyte, said the heightened extortion activities could also mean that the rebel group was "up to something."

He said the NPA might be preparing for a major offensive in the next few days, leading to its anniversary on Dec. 26.

More weapons

Ramos told the INQUIRER that the money raised by the NPA could be used in buying more weapons.

For several months now, the military has received reports of increased guerrilla activities in Eastern Visayas.

In September, four members of the Scout Rangers belonging to the 34th Infantry Battalion were killed during an ambush in Mahaplag town, Leyte.

The guerrillas fled with more than P100,000 in soldiers' payroll.

Ramos said the extortion was most prominent in the western part of Leyte.

He mentioned the towns of Albuera, Baybay and Mahaplag, which, Ramos said, are the NPA's "guerrilla base" in the western part of Leyte.

Ramos said the NPA members do not distinguish their victims anymore.

The guerrillas demand revolutionary tax from anyone who could pay.

"They are demanding sacks of rice and other farm produce from our farmers and issuing demand letters to big companies," he said.

Ramos said he had information that big companies based in Leyte received demand letters from the NPA. He, however, declined to name these companies.

More patrols

He said soldiers are now conducting patrols more frequently especially in areas where the NPA extorts revolutionary tax from the people.

The war on the guerrillas has led to complaints of abuses allegedly committed by the military.

Human rights groups in Iloilo City accused the Army recently of turning houses of members of an indigenous community in Tapaz town, Capiz into military detachments.

More soldiers

The groups also aired fears of increased military presence in the area.

Col. Romeo Tinagan, deputy commander of the Army's Task Force Panay, denied the allegations, saying it was "improbable" for soldiers to occupy private homes.

Task Force Panay is in charge of internal security operations on Panay Island.

He said soldiers would only stay in private residences if they have the expressed permission of the owner.

Members of Task Force Tapaz released to the results of its fact-finding mission from Oct. 7 to 11.

The mission held meetings with residents of 10 barangays—Sinunod, Minan, Mabini, Rizal Sur, Daan Sur, Nayawan, Tacayan and Aglinab in Tapaz, Capiz and Garangan in Calinog town, Iloilo.

Samuel Jaco, secretary general of Karapatan in Panay, said soldiers deployed to these barangays occupied the homes of civilians in Barangays Daan Sur, and Sinunod, Tapaz.

Residents of a remote village in Baggao town have asked the Commission on Human Rights and the Cagayan provincial board to help them dismantle an Army camp there due to allegations of human rights abuses committed by some soldiers.

Residents of Barangay Carupian have accused the soldiers belonging to the Bravo Company of the Army's 41st Infantry Battalion of harassing villagers and encroaching on their property. They said soldiers were forcing them to reveal information on rebels in their village.

The residents, through the help of the Bayan Muna party-list group and the human rights group Karapatan, filed a formal complaint before the Cagayan provincial board and the CHR this week.*Joey Gabieta and Nestor Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Terrorism fails to dampen Dinagyang preparations

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The global outlook for travel may be dampened by the recent bombings in Bali and the impending war in Iraq but Ilonggos are not about to give up.

Preparations for Dinagyang 2003 has started, more than three months before it takes place on the third week of January. The launch of the grand event on Monday came early in this city that used to have it every December.

Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas said the early launch would help generate wider participation from corporate and civic groups here, and publicity from the media.

Dinagyang, Iloilo's biggest festival and its top tourist-drawing event, will be on its 34th year next year. Its main feature is the choreographed street dancing of soot-blackened dancers to the thundering beat of drums.

Like last year, the festival is in the hands of the private sector, which was credited for well-coordinated activities. The city government pledged only P700,000 as contribution to the P4 million projected expenses of the Iloilo Dinagyang Foundation. The rest would come from corporate and institutional sponsors.

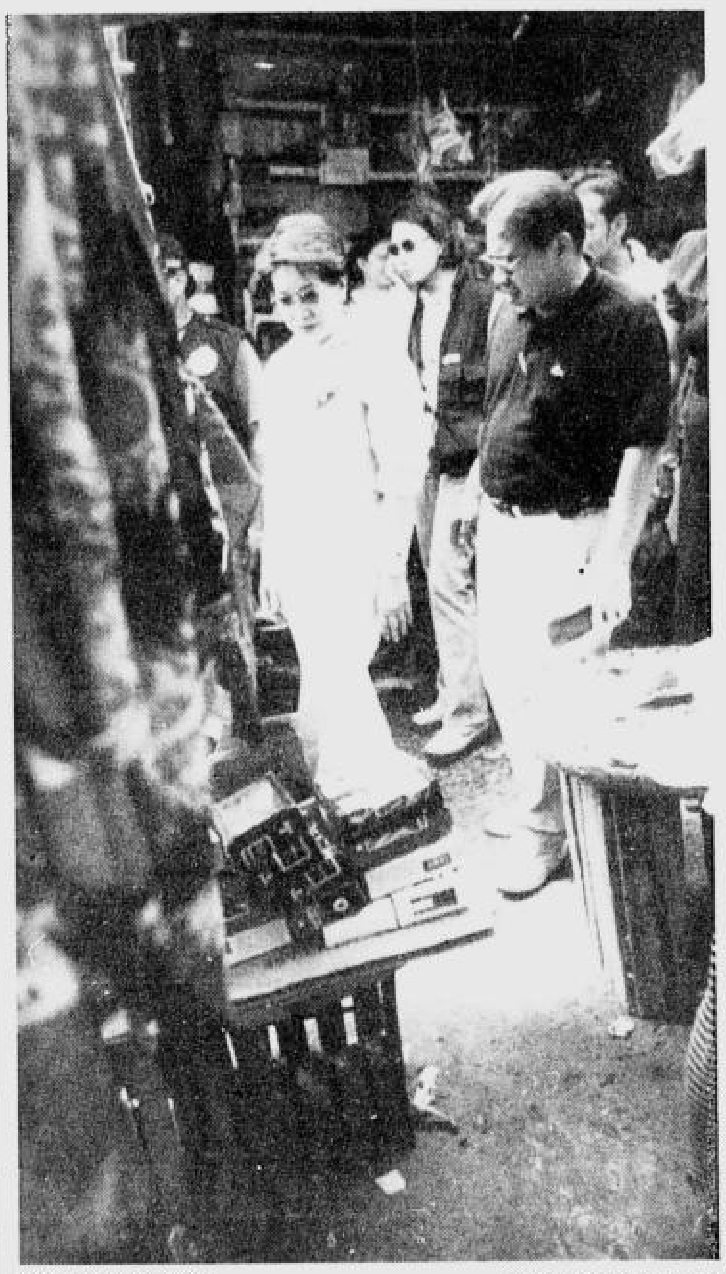
"We are pleased that most of the funds (would) no longer come from the city government. It shows the ownership of Ilonggos of Dinagyang," said Treñas.

Organizers are hoping that Dinagyang 2003 would be better than the previous one and would generate more income for the city.

A survey of Dinagyang visitors in 2002 showed that many of them are working professionals with buying power. At least half of them stayed in hotels and a third ate in restaurants and fast-food chains. They watched the festival with at least three members of their family in tow.

Rowena Regalado, head of the festival's marketing committee, said the survey would guide organizers on which sponsors to tap and how to promote Dinagyang.

The Department of Tourism in Western Visayas expressed confidence that tourists would come despite the looming crisis in the world travel industry. Statistics showed that despite the Sept. 11 attack on the United States, tourism turnout in Iloilo did not decline. From January to June 2002, at least 96,000 tourists arrived in Iloilo.



LGU BACKER PHOTO FROM ORETA OFFICE
Opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta visits a public market in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan with the town's mayor, Eduardo Roquero. Oreta is doing the rounds of local government units in connection with a bill she filed seeking the automatic release of internal revenue allotment funds to LGUs.

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Abus blamed for twin blasts in Zamboanga City

From page A1

dent. The bombs recovered were similar to the ones used in the Malagutay explosion," Servando said. In both instances TNT was used. The Abu Sayyaf had threatened attacks days earlier in retaliation for an ongoing military offensive against it.

Some 260 US troops are in Zamboanga, the remnants of a 1,000-strong force which spent six months in the area earlier this year to train Filipino soldiers in eliminating the Abu Sayyaf, which the United States has linked to al-Qaida. The Abu Sayyaf is still holding three Indonesian seamen and four Filipina Jehovah's Witnesses members whom they abducted earlier this year.

Servando said the military was not ruling out other suspects, including Jemaah Islamiyah. Police invited for questioning 16 people, including two Turkish nationals and a Malaysian in connection with the bombings. The foreigners, crew members of MV Suisen docked at the Zamboanga wharf, were later released.

A police official said the twin bomb explosions were the work of local terrorists with links to Jemaah Islamiyah.

"It's happening. We believe this is all part of the Jemaah Islamiyah's plot to establish an Islamic state in the Asian region. We're lucky the magnitude of the blasts is not the same as those in Bali, Indonesia," the official said.

Jemaah Islamiyah cell

Jemaah Islamiyah has an existing cell in the country, composed of two foreigners and two Filipinos, who remain at large and are being hunted down by authorities, the police official said. He said the Abu Sayyaf, which, according to him has linked up with the Jemaah Islamiyah, had been "regrouping."

Fatur al-Ghozi, a confessed member of Jemaah Islamiyah, had admitted responsibility for the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila that killed 22 people. Al-Ghozi, who is now serving a 12-year sentence, said he had trained in a camp of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). His arrest in Quiapo, Manila, on Jan. 15 resulted in the recovery of a ton of TNT in General Santos City.

Bombs on counters

The first blast in Zamboanga City occurred at 11:30 a.m. at the Shop-o-Rama department store, and was followed a half-hour later by a second explosion at the adjacent Shoppers Central store. Police Chief Mario Yanga said most of the bombs were left at counters where shoppers leave packages as they enter.

The first bomb wrecked cars, flung motorcycles down the street and tore open shuttered shops. One man was thrown through a plate glass window. Police were seen later dragging away the injured, some horribly mutilated. Witnesses said a dead man's head was blown off.

The blasts took place at the same time that ceremonies were being held to hand over command of the military's Southern Command from Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina to Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya.

Abaya and other top military and police officials rushed to the scene from a nearby military headquarters grandstand.

"The bombings are apparently coordinated," he told reporters. "They are targeting crowded places where there are plenty of civilians."

Classes suspended

Classes in several schools in the city were suspended.

Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat said the Zamboanga City Medical Center had received three dead and 50 others injured, many seriously. More victims were taken to other medical facilities.

Blood smeared the floors of the hospital where doctors and paramedics, strapping on rubber gloves, worked furiously to save lives. A policeman stood by with the words "stop death" on the back of his uniform.

One unidentified teenager, pressing a white towel to her forehead at the medical center, said that she was walking in front of Shop-o-Rama when she heard a loud explosion. "I fell down and blood was oozing from my forehead," she said, adding that she had soaked through three towels and also had an arm injury but was being sent home after treatment, apparently to make room for more seriously injured victims.

The usual noontime bustle of Zamboanga's downtown area instantly turned into a gory scene of scattered debris, blood and chaos. Firefighters poured water onto wreckage as medical workers rushed people on gurneys to waiting ambulances. Police cars and pickup trucks also were used to ferry victims from the area.

A truckload of soldiers arrived to secure the area, and military canine units were brought in to sniff for other possible explosives.

All shops in the city's commercial center closed, and police advised people to stay out of the area, blocking off streets with cars and yellow tape. Trapped employees were later led out one by one, helped by police.

The bomb attacks happened despite a full alert raised by the national police following the bomb explosion at a videoke bar in Zamboanga City on Oct. 2.

"If you look at Zamboanga, it is a very wide area. It is really impossible to monitor a grenade; the police cannot do it alone. The community must get involved because the community knows what is happening and in that particular place, Zamboanga," said Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police.

Security lax

Most public buildings in metropolitan areas in the country have armed guards at entrances, sometimes with metal detectors, who are supposed to search packages. But Yanga said they often become complacent in their searches.

"These malls are always being lectured, but their security remains lax," he said.

The blasts also came on the day the military announced that troops were able to reach a secondary objective against the MILF in Lanao del Sur.

A report from Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag of the 4th Infantry Division said his men had breached a 20-hectare MILF camp in Sultan Gumander town. Government troops, according to the same report, were able to kill a total of 46 MILF men in the offensive which started this week. The camp has 40 bunkers with trenches, fox holes and fortified dugout guard posts.

The bombings also overshadowed the arrest of two men who allegedly planted a bomb that exploded at a crowded bus terminal in Kidapawan on Oct. 10, which killed seven persons and injured several others. *(Story on Page A2)* *With reports from AFP, AP and Reuters*

Headless corpse stuns shoppers ...

From page A1

ly Christian city of 700,000 at the height of the midday crush of shoppers.

Lourdes Morados, a 44-year-old housewife, was window-shopping at the Shop-o-Rama mall when the first bomb went off at about 11:30 a.m., hurling glass shards at her. She thought her end had come.

"I thought it was over for me because of the impact," she said at a hospital where she was being treated for deep cuts to the face.

"I saw people falling to the ground. Others were dashing for exits. Many of them had blood on their clothes.

"We tried to call for help. People came to our rescue. Then everything went black around me," Morados said.

Screams of "run . . . run" and "another explosion" rent the air as shoppers and mall employees ran for their lives. One man was thrown through a plate glass window in the first blast.

Salara Lawi, an 18-year-old Muslim woman, was hit by broken glass and also tried to run. But her legs gave under her and she was nearly crushed to death in the stampede.

"There was huge explosion. We all wanted to get out. We all wanted to live. But I was trampled underfoot," Lawi said.

Thoughts that one of her children was killed made housewife Vivian Taroza's skin crawl. "I left my baby with another daughter (Melody) because I needed to go into Shop-o-Rama to buy something," Taroza said. "I heard a loud explosion. I ran out to look for my baby and my daughter.

"Melody was crying. She said she dropped my baby. Then I saw her sprawled on the street. She wasn't badly hurt. She just suffered a hit in the eye. If she had died, I don't know what I would have done."

On the southern coast of Mindanao, Zamboanga lies in the heartland of a Muslim separatist rebellion that has killed more than 125,000 people since it broke out in 1972. *Reuters*

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7 foreigners bombed Bali, says Jakarta Post

From page A1

But Bashir denies any knowledge of the group or links to terrorism, and on Wednesday told reporters "the bombings were engineered by infidels to launch war against Islam." He has previously blamed the United States.

Yudhoyono declined to give details of the investigation being mounted by a high-level international police team. Police said late Wednesday that four Indonesians now being detained would soon be formally arrested as suspects.

"There are many scenarios and I would not prematurely give you who is behind this incident—what community, what political elements in this country—because you know that terrorism now has a domestic as well as an international network," Yudhoyono said.

Megawati cracks down

Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri prepared on Wednesday to enact emergency anti-terror measures, her most decisive move yet to crack down on militant Islamic groups following the Bali bomb blasts.

In her strongest move yet against extremist Islamic groups, Megawati prepared to bypass parliament and issue an anti-terrorism decree that would give police stronger powers to act against suspects.

With the United States and jittery Asian neighbors piling pressure on Indonesia to take firm action, a top presidential aide said the anti-terror decree would be issued "as soon as possible."

An anti-terror bill has been languishing in draft form as the government tries to come up with a version acceptable to parliament.

The bill has sparked controversy in a country struggling to build a stable democracy after decades of authoritarian rule, and wary of any legislation that could curb new-found freedoms.

It is deeply unpopular with some Muslim groups on which Megawati's government relies for support.

Yudhoyono said he could not give details of the decree as it was still being prepared by the justice minister.

Neighbors Singapore and Malaysia have used tough security laws to round up dozens of members of Jemaah Islamiyah. They complain others are taking refuge in Indonesia.

Howard preaches

In London, Australian Prime Minister John Howard described Islamic extremism as "dangerous and evil," but urged his compatriots to show tolerance toward moderate Muslims in the wake of the bombings.

Australia bore the brunt of the casualties from a car bomb that ripped through Bali's Sari nightclub on Saturday night. Two other bombs went off in Bali around the same time.

Australia said it could take weeks to identify many of the charred and mutilated victims of the nightclub blast.

Thirty-three Australians have been confirmed dead and 140 are missing, prompting fears of a backlash against Muslims living in Australia.

But Howard told BBC World Television he did not expect that to happen.

"Australians are a very tolerant, open people and I encourage them to remain so," he said. "What they're angry about is militant Islam and so are ordinary Muslims, and they should be."

Suspicion on al-Qaida

Suspicion has fallen on al-Qaida and the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), an Indonesian based group, which some link to Osama bin Laden's network.

Investigators said the C4 plastic explosives that demolished Sari nightclub and nearby bars on Kuta Beach were packed into the roof of a minivan.

They said that type of explosive was not made in Indonesia.

An authority on al-Qaida, citing documents from a US interrogation of a member of the network, said an unidentified Saudi supplied funds to Jemaah Islamiyah to buy explosives that could have been used in Bali.

The information was gathered in US interrogations of Omar al-Faruq, a Kuwaiti linked to al-Qaida who was arrested in Indonesia in June and later handed over to US authorities in Afghanistan, said Rohan Gunaratna, author of the book "Inside Al-Qaida: Global Network of Terror."

The money was delivered earlier this year, said Gunaratna, who has seen the US interrogation papers. The amount sent by the Saudi donor was $74,000, the Financial Times said.

Gunaratna said the explosives were bought from Indonesian army officers who sold the material illegally.

The C4 explosives are the same material used in the al-Qaida-linked bombing of the USS Cole in the port of Aden in Yemen two years to the day before the Bali attack.

But Yudhoyono said it was premature to say JI was behind the attacks.

He said the network operates in Singapore and Malaysia but named four Indonesians as being among its leaders—Abdullah Sungkar, Bashir, Hambali and Imam Samudra.

"They are Indonesian citizens and active in JI activities in the two countries," Yudhoyono said.

"If the JI is part of international terrorism, and if Indonesians are involved in acts of terrorism, then Indonesia will take legal steps."

Bashir has been named by Singapore as the spiritual leader of the group. Western governments have raised concerns that he is allowed to live freely in Indonesia, especially after the weekend bombing. *Reports from AFP, Reuters and AP*

Intelligence failure riles lawmakers

By Juliet L. Javellana

LAWMAKERS are demanding to know why government intelligence agencies failed to take steps to prevent the new bombings in Zamboanga City.

But National Security Adviser Roilo Golez downplayed the bombings as a mere "local incident."

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, chair of the House defense committee, said yesterday he would summon intelligence officials to a House defense committee inquiry for their failure to prevent the bombings.

Pichay said that after the terrorist attack on Bali, Indonesia, that killed at least 190 people on Oct. 12 the intelligence agencies should have taken measures to prevent yesterday's bombings. "Four bombs in a day indicate that our intelligence agents are not very vigilant," he said.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, a member of the House opposition, said military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus should resign because of the "continuing breakdown of intelligence" in the Armed Forces.

"How can we have a decent intelligence capability when we have an intelligence chief who is more concerned with politics than with averting terrorist attacks such as the Zamboanga bombings?" Remulla said.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri suggested that a shoot-to-kill order be issued for the perpetrators of the bombings.

"Today, everyone is a Zamboangueño, for the bombs that ripped through that proud city's downtown also tore through every Filipino's heart," Zubiri said.

He said the entire country should show its solidarity with Zamboanga by refusing to be cowed by terrorists.

Pichay urged military and police intelligence agents to look into the possibility of a direct link between the series of bombings in Zamboanga and the bombings in Bali.

"It is too early to conclude that this is a local incident. Our intelligence assets should also focus on a possible tie-up between the Bali and Zamboanga bombings," Pichay said in a statement.

Golez said the incident would not force President Macapagal-Arroyo to cancel her trip to Mexico next week for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Golez said that it's "highly possible" that a terrorist group "local there in Zamboanga City" was behind the bombing.

But he also said "we're not sure who are responsible."

Asked who might be responsible for the bombing, Golez said: "We are looking at several angles but we don't want to mention specific groups."

With reports from Carlito Pablo.

Banker Ang bought trouble, gets sued

From page A1

either withdrawn without authorization or transferred to the account of Seed Capital Inc., the group that now controls 60 percent of the midsized thrift bank.

More trouble

Ang has yet another problem. BankWise, according to a central bank official, has also not fully disclosed the details of the change in ownership to the Monetary Board.

In a letter of Prama to the BSP, the group alleged that its more than P16 million in peso and dollar deposits to BankWise were either withdrawn or diverted into the account of Seed Capital Inc.

Seed Capital is controlled by Roberto Guevara who reportedly asked Ang to help raise P250 million to buy a 60-percent stake in BankWise.

Prama Foundation president Ramon Collado told the central bank in a letter that P3.16 million were withdrawn by a Jose Mari Martinez from the account of the foreign retirees.

Close to P600,000 were withdrawn to pay a travel agent for airline tickets of BankWise president Madara. Martinez who is also named in the NBI complaint is reportedly a friend of Madara.

The Prama president alleged that BankWise officials are in cahoots with the officials of the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Association (PLRA), a government agency that has had conflicts with Prama. The Prama Foundation manages millions in funds of foreign retirees.

During the Ramos presidency, the government enticed foreign retirees into the country by giving them special resident visas and other perks.

Fight over funds

In exchange, each foreign retiree is required to pay a one-time fee of between $50,000 and $75,000 to enjoy permanent resident status.

These funds are now being managed by Prama Foundation. During the last days of the Estrada administration to the early days of Ms Macapagal, the Prama and the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Association were fighting over the funds.

Sources said that BankWise knew of the conflict and enticed Prama president Collado to deposit some of the foundation's funds in the bank. In exchange, the bank officials would try to help solve its conflict with PLRA.

Collado, in his letter to the BSP, accused BankWise and PLRA, particularly Jun Marcelo who is one of the latter's officers, of having conspired to withdraw and divert the funds of the foreign retirees.

Sources said the bank officials even dropped the name of Ang to Collado.

For the meantime, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the Monetary Board has asked BankWise to provide the central bank the complete ownership structure the thrift lender.

BankWise, a medium-sized thrift lender with four branches in Metro Manila and one each in Cebu and Davao is owned 60 percent by Seed Capital and 40 percent by Wise Corp.

BankWise used to be known as Bank Dharmala, an Indonesian firm.

Wise Corp. is owned by Rene Francisco, the bank's former chair, who also controls the Professional Educational Plan. Other owners are Tony Ortigas, Vic Campa, and Jose Esteban.

Dostri loans

Before the entry of Ang's group, BankWise had about P700 million of loans extended to directors, officers, shareholders and related interests or the so-called Dosri.

The former majority owners reportedly violated the Dosri policy of the BSP that provides that no bank should extend no more than 20 percent of unimpaired capital to related interests.

'Don't I have right to get rich?'

From page A1

hobby," Ang said. "I'm a private businessman. It was an ordinary business transaction," he clarified.

Ang needed to do some explaining after monitoring a radio interview of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay who proposed an inquiry into the circumstances of the purchase of 60 percent of the bank by Ang and a group of local investors.

Magsaysay reportedly raised the issue of Ang's financial capability, implying that he may be fronting for other influential persons.

Ang strongly took exception to Magsaysay's statement, describing it as "irresponsible."

"What kind of leaders do we have? They should have at least something with a semblance of truth before they come out in public with their suspicions," Ang said during a phone interview.

He stressed he was "invited" by a group that bought into BankWise for P250 million and that he only raised 20 percent of that amount.

"If I were to front for someone, why would it be for a small bank?" Ang said.

Ang noted that he came from humble beginnings and was able to accumulate wealth by dint of hard work and business acumen.

Last year, Ang bought the Manila Times from Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez for P20 million.

"A local publisher later told me that had she known that Manila Times can be had for only P20 million, then she would have bought it instead," Ang related.

Ang also recently acquired the right to distribute Tecnogas cooking products but he said that he's amortizing for his payment through royalties.

"In short, *hulugan pa* (by installment)," Ang said.

Ang, who is also the senior presidential consultant for public affairs, said that his business acquisitions simply prove that he has confidence in the country.

"I'm also expressing confidence in the country by investing in ventures that will eventually give me benefits," Ang said.

NBI nabs chief suspect in ₱2.5-B tax credit scam

FAUSTINO CHINGKOE was nabbed and questioned at the NBI headquarters for his involvement in the billion-peso tax credit scam. ERIK ARAZAS

From page A1

presidential task force filed a plunder case against them.

The NBI had received a tip that Chingkoe had returned to the country and, after receiving a warrant for his arrest last week, grabbed him yesterday.

But because the Office of the Ombudsman filed only graft, not plunder, charges against him before the Sandiganbayan, Chingkoe was able to post bail immediately after his arrest.

The anti-graft court had set P30,000 bail for each of the 83 graft counts against him.

Evidence wanting?

Allan Ventura, executive director of Special Presidential Task Force 156, said the Ombudsman, in filing only graft charges against Chingkoe and his co-accused, found the evidence or the money trail leading to public officials "still wanting."

"(It claimed that) there was no evidence yet. (But) with all due respect to the resolution of the Ombudsman, we believe the contrary," Ventura said.

Task Force 156 was mandated to investigate the tax credit scam involving the Chingkoe Group of Companies, officials of Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell and former officials of the task force.

It found that the 12 companies owned by Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe were responsible for defrauding the government P2.5 billion by using fraudulent tax credit certificates (TCCs), or half of the P5.3-billion fraudulent TCCs.

The oil companies allegedly illegally purchased TCCs from garment companies entitling them to tax refunds. They used the certificates to reduce their tax liabilities.

Case still salvageable

Rep. Oscar Moreno is urging newly installed Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo to try to "save" the plunder case, saying there were "still solutions" that can be made after "attempts to water down (the case)."

Moreno was referring to an accusation he had made earlier that Marcelo's predecessor, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, deliberately bungled the government's prosecution of the billion-peso tax credit scam cases. Moreno and several groups had filed an impeachment case early this year against Desierto citing the bungling of the cases.

The case, however, did not prosper and Desierto retired last August. Desierto had denied Moreno's accusations.

Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers also urged Marcelo to file a plunder case against Chingkoe "so that he would not have the chance to flee the country again, plunder being a non-bailable offense."

"I'm sure Ombudsman Marcelo will pick up where Desierto left off so that this case will be finally prosecuted," Barbers said.

Charges downgraded

Task Force 156 had recommended before the Office of the Ombudsman the filing of plunder charges against Chingkoe and several others. But when the Ombudsman filed the case before the Sandiganbayan on the first week of August, the charges were downgraded to violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The government has asked the Sandiganbayan to allow a reinvestigation of the case.

Chingkoe's co-accused are his wife and his brother, Winston, former Department of Finance Undersecretary Antonio Belicena, former deputy executive director of DOF's one-stop shop Ularico Andutan, Catalina Bautista, Amante Ares and Reynaldo Andaya.

Ventura said former Shell general manager Pacifico Cruz and former Petron vice president and general manager Celso Legarda also face graft charges.

Head Agent Leopoldo G. Andrada of the NBI Anti-Graft Division said his men are still looking for some of the other accused, including Gloria Chingkoe.

Ventura said some of the accused have already posted bail. He did not say who they were.

Salonga warns ...

From page A1

pressed her preference for Azcuna who failed to make it to the Judicial Bar Council's short list when she made her choices for two vacancies in the Supreme Court last month.

Bantay Katarungan yesterday furnished the INQUIRER with what it called "explosive documents" which, it said, were never revealed to former President Corazon Aquino and former Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma. Ms Aquino and Palma are reportedly backing Azcuna's appointment.

The documents allege that Azcuna, during the martial law years, fronted for a dummy company of Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez when the latter took over PCI Bank. They say that Azcuna, while president and board chair of Trans-Middle East Philippines Equities Inc., made it possible for Romualdez to take control of the bank.

In a telephone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Azcuna reiterated that he had already addressed Bantay Katarungan's objections during the JBC panel interview.

As for the allegedly "explosive documents," he said: "I don't know what they mean by that. I have not heard from them. I have not seen what they are referring to."

Azcuna, 63, was legal counsel and spokesperson during the presidency of Ms Aquino. He was also named to the Presidential Commission on Good Government for a brief period in 1989.

Bantay Katarungan said the JBC, which it said was furnished copies of the documents, turned a blind eye on undeniable facts that were not sufficiently explained by Azcuna during a public interview on Aug. 8.

'Done behind my back'

During that interview, Azcuna maintained his innocence.

"I have no knowledge and participation (relating to) the acquisition of shares. It was done very much behind my back without my knowledge," he had said.

"I was assured that everything was done according to corporate practice," Azcuna responded.

Azcuna explained that as a partner in the Bengzon law office, he was asked to be one of the incorporators of one of three corporations set up by the law firm in 1983.

"It's true ... As a partner, I was asked to sign as an incorporator, then they put me president and chairman. But I did not participate in the questioned transactions," he said.

He said he had inquired about the transactions "but I came up with a blank wall so I resigned from the law office."

Azcuna stressed that he was not among those charged before the Sandiganbayan in connection with Romualdez's alleged illegal transactions.

Monitored all aspirants

Former Sen. Jovito Salonga, Bantay Katarungan's adviser and trustee, said the group had monitored the various aspirants for the position.

But persistent media reports and information from Palace sources have it that Azcuna, on account of an alleged commitment made by the President, will nevertheless be appointed despite the authenticity of the documents, Salonga said.

In an Oct. 4 letter to the JBC, lawyer Emilio Capulong Jr. said Bantay Katarungan had no personal grudge against Azcuna.

Capulong and former Ambassador Sedfrey Ordonez, the group's board chair, said Azcuna himself admitted the "authenticity and genuineness" of the documents attached by the group in its complaint before the JBC.

"Until now, Atty. Azcuna does not tell us why he gave a substantial amount of P400,000 in 1983 as an incorporator (of the dummy firm). He also does not tell us how much he had received by way of compensation for occupying the (three top) positions (of the firm)," said Capulong.

Azcuna, however, said the "amount is normally required for incorporation."

As for his compensation, he said: "I receive a few thousand pesos for agreeing to be an incorporator. I didn't receive any salary."

Up to GMA

When asked if his chances of securing the SC post was really strong, Azcuna said: "I'm not sure. It's up to the President."

Azcuna's prospects of securing the lone vacant seat in the 15-member bench vastly improved after the JBC included him in the final list of nominees for the position vacated by Associate Justice Santiago Kapunan. Also, 10 of the 14 Supreme Court justices recommended him for the post.

Besides Azcuna, the JBC had submitted the names of Court of Appeals acting Presiding Justice Cancio Garcia, CA Associate Justices Delilah Vidallon-Magtolis and Ruben Reyes, and SC court administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr.

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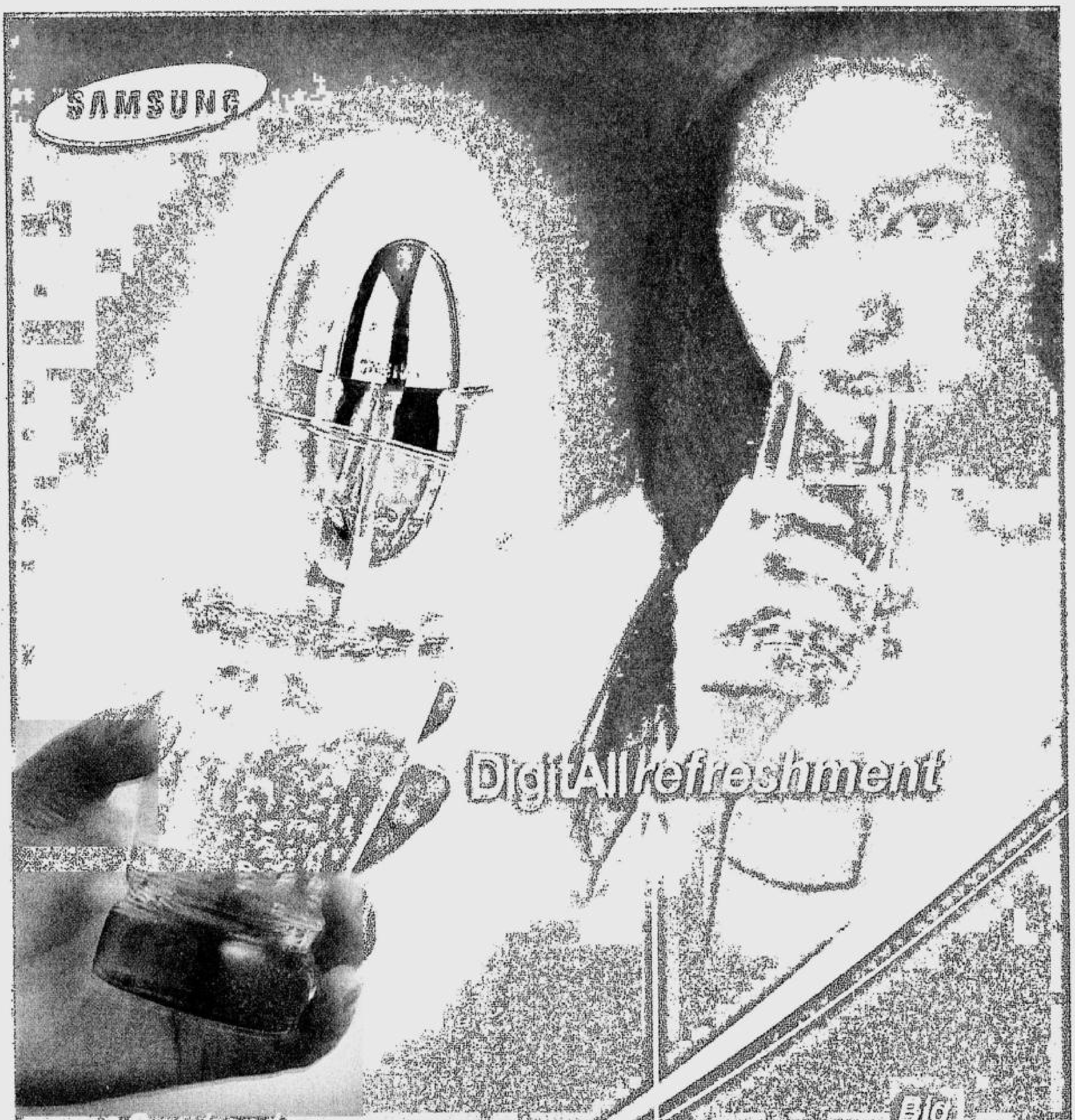
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Lea Salonga returns to Broadway

From page A1

Filipino actor Jose Llana, who plays opposite Salonga, is a marvel. His voice soars and his body is lithe and he sometimes overpowers the presence of Salonga.

Based on the 1957 novel by C.Y. Lee, "Flower Drum Song" premiered in Broadway in 1958 as the third Rodgers and Hammerstein musical with an East-meets-West theme, specifically about the culture clash experienced by the Chinese community in San Francisco.

This time around, prize-winning playwright David Henry Hwang has updated and revised the book as an exploration into the identity politics of being Asian-American.

"We ended up reconceiving the work so totally, I don't think a single line remains from the original book," Hwang admitted in an essay published by The New York Times last Sunday.

The night before that, the playwright was all smiles after a special benefit gala performance for the Filipino community here organized by Josie Natori, Ernest Escaler, and Isabel Wilson as a fund-raiser for the Asian Cultural Council, an affiliate grant-giving body of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Hwang told this reporter, "I'd like to bring this show to Manila."

Full house

"It was exciting," Filipino TV news anchor Tina Monzon Palma said during the cocktails reception afterwards.

"I found it very, very entertaining," said Filipino stage director Andrew Vergara, associate artistic director of Monique Wilson's New Voice Company.

"There is more dancing, and it's great that Lea (Salonga) now does what her cousin Maniya Barredo has been doing all along—dancing onstage," Filipino dance critic and choreographer Steve "Basilio" Villaruz said.

The full-house crowd seemed to be appreciative of this new version of the musical.

In the original production, Mei-Li was a mail-order bride from China sent to marry Sammy Fong, a nightclub owner. But Mei-Li was in love with Wang Ta (Jose Llana), who in turn was in love with the nightclub singer Linda Low, who herself was in love with Sammy.

New version

In this new version, Mei-Li escapes China during the Cultural Revolution, sailing precariously on a junk. She arrives in San Francisco looking for her father's best friend, Sammy Fong, an aging patriarch doing Chinese opera for an empty house in Chinatown. His son, Wang Ta, turns the opera house into a very happening nightclub every Friday night. As he says, "Someone's gotta pay the bills around here." He is in love with his sexy star dancer, Linda Low.

Club Chop Suey

Enter Madame Liang, a former starlet but now a talent agent ("I'm old, so I become an agent," she quips), who convinces Sammy Fong to turn the once-a-week nightclub into nightly entertainment named, well, Club Chop Suey. And everything begins to sizzle here, the love twists, the swinging dance numbers, the pangs brought about by the cultural conflicts between the traditional Asian culture and the contemporary American way of life.

Director Robert Longbottom made sure this musical is one eye-grabber and crowd-pleaser.

Lucky 6 . . .

From page A1

the P202,060,329.60 jackpot for the Super Lotto 6/49. They bet on the winning combination: 11-06-23-43-18-28.

PCSO general manager Virgilio Angelo said it was "one of the most exciting chapters in the history of the state-run lottery."

The jackpot for the Super Lotto ballooned to an all-time high of P202 million after nobody won the previous 22 draws. The last time somebody won the jackpot was when when a female househelp from the Visayan region took home P145.8 million.

The second biggest jackpot was P161.9 million shared by two players in 1998 in the 6/45 Mega Lotto.

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Archers vs Blazers today

THE ST. BENILDE Blazers and the La Salle Archers tangle in the 4 p.m. main game today of the UAAP-NCAA benefit games at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The 2 p.m. opener will feature the UST Growling Tigers and the JRU Heavy Bombers. Proceeds of the "Showdown for Bantay Bata" tournament will go to the Bantay Bata 163 project of the ABS-CBN Foundation.

SEE YOU IN QATAR

Jun B: PBA to do it again in next Asiad

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

COMMISSIONER Jun Bernardino of the Philippine Basketball Association has belied reports the PBA had just had its last Asiad participation in the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

"Who said that?" he said by way of reacting to rumors the PBA will stop supporting a PBA team to future Asiads. "That would be an unwise move and the idea is not worth entertaining at the moment. As far as I am concerned, the PBA will continue supporting a team bound for future Asian Games competitions. That has been a commitment which we will honor like real gentlemen of the game."

Bernardino revealed this to the INQUIRER on Wednesday while he and the remaining members of the Philippine Asian Games Team were waiting for their plane to leave Busan on Wednesday at the Gimhae International Airport.

Said Bernardino: "I keep telling coach Jong (Uichico) that he can walk with his head up high because there is nothing to be ashamed of. That loss to Korea was a won-game, no matter how you look at it. It was a win stolen away from us because of a lucky three-point shot."

The Philippine quintet was just a tick away from a sure silver when Lee Sang Min threw a desperation shot from the arc, giving South Korea a 69-68 victory.

The Koreans went on to beat China in overtime, 102-100, to win the gold, with the Filipinos, still emotionally drained after the setback to the Koreans the night before, finishing fourth by losing to Kazakhstan, 68-66, in the battle for the bronze.

He said the fourth-place finish of the Philippine quintet "should in no way diminish our faith in our players' ability to achieve success in the Asian Games. The breaks weren't just with us in Busan. See you in Qatar in 2006."

BERNARDINO (left) with PBA Executive Director Sonny Barrios. PDI PHOTO

Danny's mind was in Manila

By Al S. Mendoza

DO you still continue to wonder why Danny Ildefonso did not shine that much in the 14th Asian Games in Busan, South Korea? Or why he did not really harness his full potential during the seven times that he was fielded in the seven-game stint of the Philippine quintet?

The 6-foot-6 Ildefonso, the PBA's Most Valuable Player only a while back, admitted it himself that he was not his old deadly self during the Asiad in an ambush interview at the Gimhae International Airport in Busan on Wedneday.

Occasion was the departure of the remaining 110 or so Filipino athletes who competed in the 14th Asian Games from Sept. 28 to Oct. 14.

"Yes, boss, I admit I wasn't 100 percent during the tournament," said Ildefonso in Filipino. "My mind refused to cooperate with me during the Games."

Ildefonso's wife delivered their third child the day the basketball team left for Busan on Sept. 25. Ildefonso skipped joining his teammates at the assembly area before they proceeded to the airport. He had wanted to be by his wife's side at the hospital.

However, Ildefonso was not able to even touch his third child, a girl named Sophia Danielle, before he would race to the airport to catch the afternoon flight to Busan.

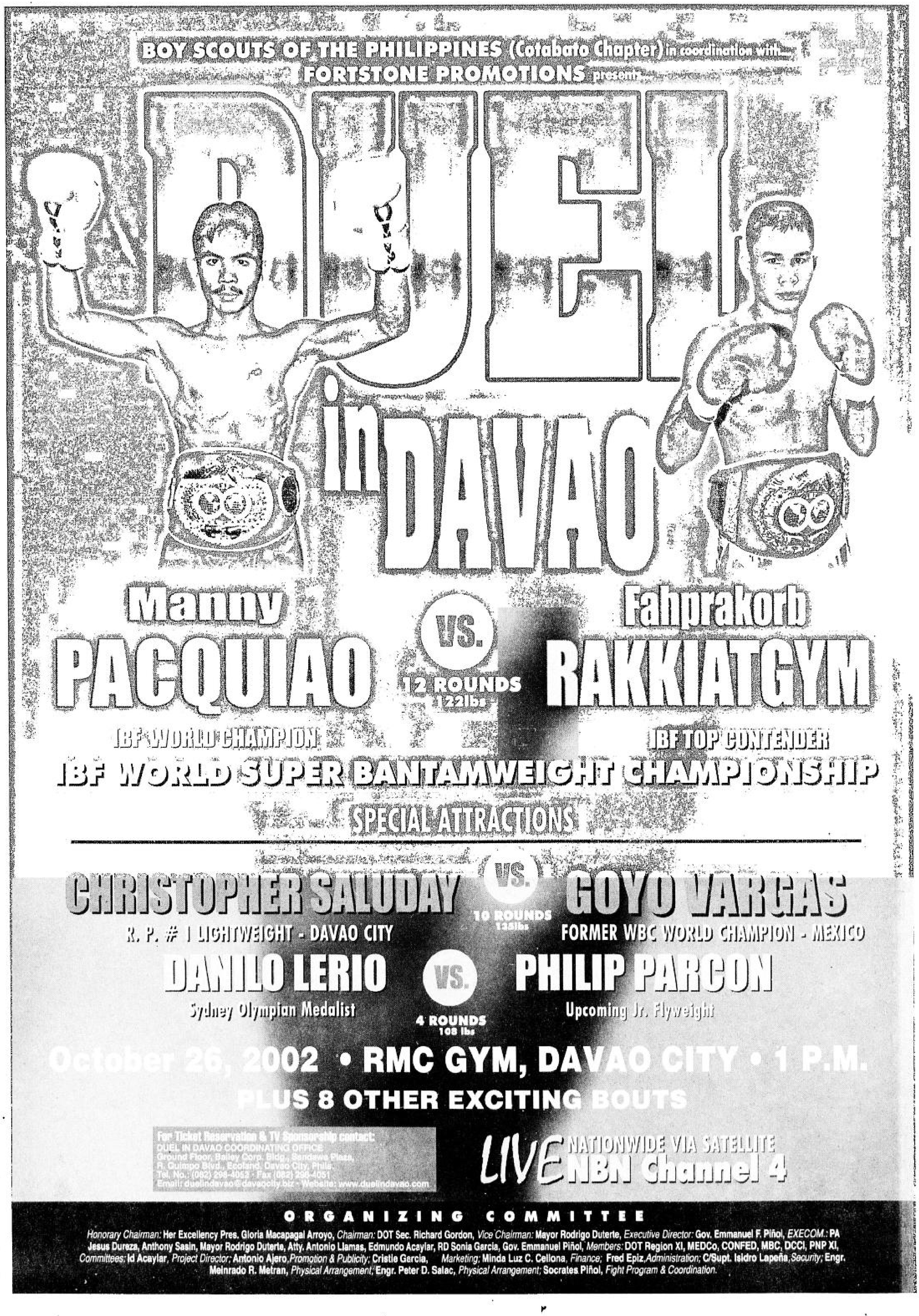
"I was only allowed to see her from behind a glass as she lay asleep in the nursery," said Ildefonso.

The Urdaneta-born (Pangasinan) Ildefonso said he was always thinking of both his daughter and wife when he was in Busan.

"I am a sentimental person," he said. "I am also very, very close to my family. It was my first time to be away from them."

The silver medal was stolen away from the Philippines by South Korea on a triple by Lee Sang Min at the buzzer, 69-68.

The Filipinos went on to finish fourth after losing the bronze to Kazakhstan, 68-66.



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Dodot's love produces Mikee's Asiad gold

By Al S. Mendoza

THE GOLD medal won by equestrienne Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski in the last Asian Games had lots of love into it.

Mikee's winning horse, Rustic Rouge, was a gift of love from her husband, Dodot, the eldest son of Sen. Robert Jaworski.

"Dodot gave the horse to Mikee last December," said former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco. "They are love birds who really love to shower each other with gifts of love."

Dodot's gift came after Mikee, a budding movie heartthrob before marriage ended her showbiz career, had delivered a second child—another boy.

"We are a total of five girls and daddy (Peping) loves to tease us that he wants our sons to be brought to his house and have them stay there for good," said Mikee, whose mother was the former Tarlac Gov. Tingting Cojuangco.

One of the sisters of Mikee, the third child, has three children—two of them boys.

Before the Asian Games, Mikee rode Rustic Rouge to victory in a big Malaysian equestrian event last March—four months after giving birth. Her eldest son, Robert III (Robbie) is 2 years old.

Her victory aboard Rustic Rouge was just a test ride, actually. Mikee's original "fighting horse" was Luisita.

"Mikee asked me which of the two should make it to Busan, Rustic Rouge or Luisita," said Peping. "I suggested she should bring the winning horse, Rustic Rouge, to Busan."

Mikee and many of the competitors in Busan had actually competed with just one horse in tow as the hosts prevented the foreign entries to ship in a spare horse—a deviation from normal procedures of allowing two horses for each competitor in international equestrian events.

It gave the hosts an undue advantage.

But Mikee, unranked in the world, bucked the odds to win ahead of her South Korean (second) and Japanese (third) opponents to suddenly become the toast of Asian equestrian.

Mikee's victory, coming on the last day of the Asiad when nobody expected it to happen, gave the country a total of 3 golds, 7 silvers and 16 bronzes to surpass the Philippines' measly one gold medal output in Bangkok four years ago.

MIKEE shows her gold medal to her sons Robbie, 2, and Rafael, 9 months, as husband Dodot looks on. Mikee, together with the rest of the RP contingent, arrived from Busan, South Korea, Wednesday night. ROGER MARGALLO

Peping bats for equestrian grounds

By Al S. Mendoza

FORMER Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco has batted for the construction of an "honest-to-goodness" equestrian grounds for the use of the country's equestrian buffs.

"It's about time our sports officials build an equestrian track so that our future equestrian competitors to international events can have a place to hone up their skills before they set out for battle," said Cojuangco, the father of gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski. "Mikee's victory should spur them to redirect their priorities."

Mikee's gold medal was a pleasant surprise for a country hungry for medals and it could not have come at a proper time, when the Philippines was about to end its campaign with only the gold medals in bowling and billiards to show.

The feat gave the country a final 3-7-16, gold-silver-bronze tally for the Philippines' 18th-place finish among 44 nations in the 16-day Asiad.

It also made equestrian the best performing National Sports Association as it won a gold and a silver in the two events that it competed in during the Asiad from Sept. 28 to Oct. 14.

The elder Cojuangco said that the Manila Polo Club and the Alabang Country Club "are the only ones with the humble facilities for equestrian training in our country—and they are private."

Said the former Tarlac solon: "Two hectares is all we need to build a world-class equestrian grounds. It is imperative that we do it now as it will greatly enhance our players' chances to score more victories in the future."

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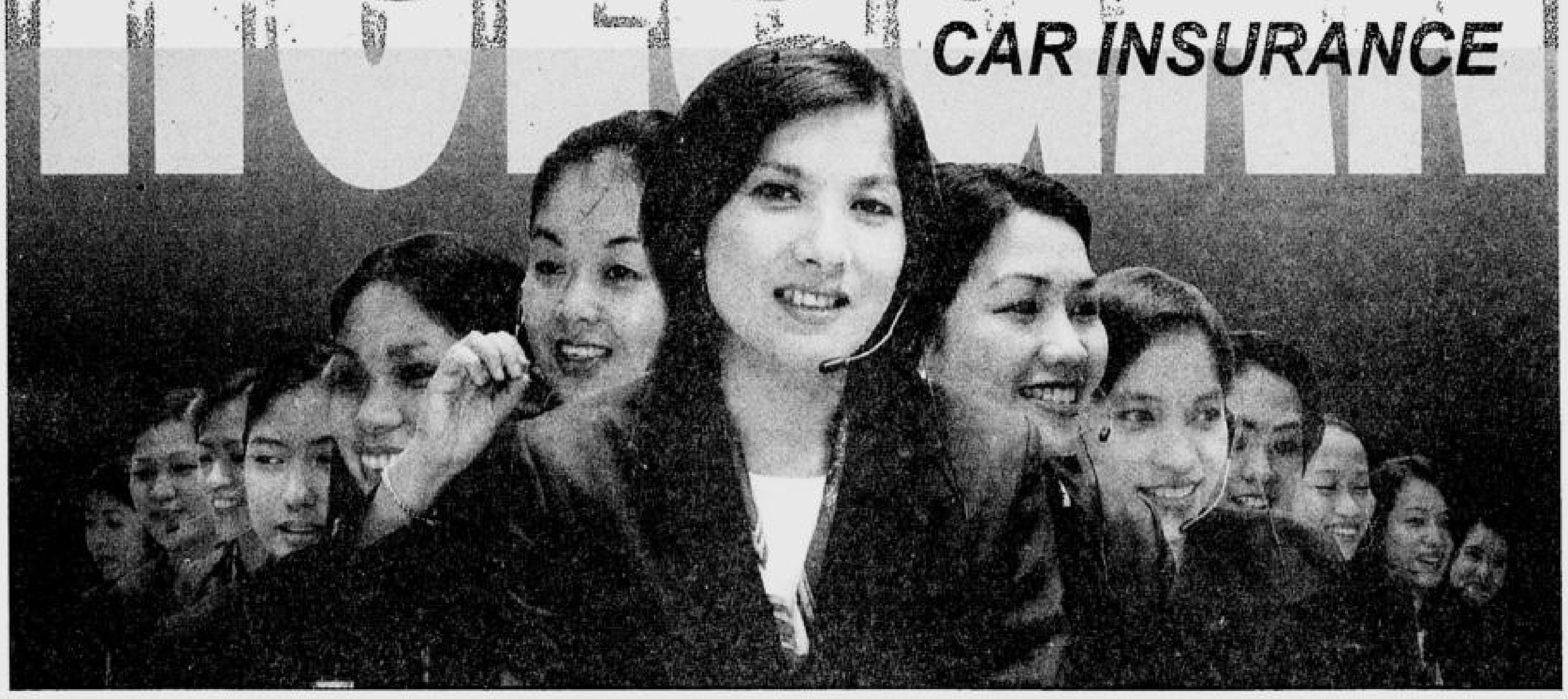

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SPORTSWATCH

Yao Ming gets visa

HOUSTON—Yao Ming is closer to joining the Houston Rockets after receiving his visa from the Chinese government and signing allegiance to his country's basketball association. Now that the document from the China Basketball Association has been signed, the 7-foot-5 Yao just needs to obtain final clearance from FIBA—the international governing body of the sport—to travel to the Rockets' camp, his agent told Houston station KRIV-TV on Wednesday. The Rockets play five exhibition games before opening the regular season Oct. 30 at Indiana. *AP*

Wang goes to Clippers

DALLAS, Texas—The Dallas Mavericks have elected to let Chinese center Wang Zhizhi sign with the Los Angeles Clippers, The Dallas Morning News reported on Wednesday. The Mavericks decided not to match the $6-million, three-year offer the Clippers made to Wang earlier this month. The 2.15-meter (7-foot-1) Wang, who played two seasons for the Mavericks, is the first Chinese-born player to play in the NBA. Wang, 25, has been at the center of a bitter dispute with the China Basketball Association over his reluctance to return to China during the off-season summer months. Mavericks' coach Don Nelson said Dallas has already made an apology to Chinese basketball officials. *AFP*

Andre, 'Para' win

MADRID, Spain—Second-seeded Andre Agassi went through to the third round in straight sets, but top-seeded Tommy Haas had to retire in his opening match Wednesday at the US$2,950,000 Madrid Masters. Agassi, playing for the first time in the Spanish capital, beat fellow American Jan-Michael Gambill 6-4, 6-4 on the Pabellon de Cristal's center court. Haas retired because of blisters in his right hand when trailing Fabrice Santoro of France 7-6 (7), 4-1. Earlier, rising star Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand beat fourth-seeded Tim Henman in three sets for his second upset win in 24 hours, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. *AP*

Capriati ousted

ZURICH, Switzerland—Veteran Conchita Martinez flattened top-seeded Jennifer Capriati 6-0, 6-3 Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the US$1,224,000 Swisscom Challenge. Capriati was slowed down by an injury in the left ankle. In other second-round play, fourth-seeded Justine Henin of Belgium swept past Israel's Anna Smashnova 6-3, 6-1. Martinez, ranked 47th in the WTA rankings, dispatched the World No. 3 in 1 hour 17 minutes, capitalizing on the American's lack of play time on the slow carpet in Zurich. *AP*

A-Rod best player

NEW YORK—Alex Rodriguez was selected player of the year in a vote by members of the players' association and John Smoltz was picked to receive the Marvin Miller Man of the Year Award. Rodriguez, who led the major leagues with 57 homers and 142 RBIs for Texas, also won the AL outstanding player award for the second straight season and fourth time since 1996. San Francisco's Barry Bonds, who led the NL with a .370 average, 49 homers and a record 198 walks, won the NL outstanding player award. *AP*

LGBA derby slated

A TOTAL of 70 participants are seeing action in the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 1st Stag Series 2002 6-Stag Derby on Oct. 21 and 23 at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. The event will be the first in a series of our stagfests conceptualized by LGBA this year, according to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz. Mike Buendia of Batangas (Buenas Dias entry) is all set to defend his crown. Other schedules will be on Nov. 5 and 7 (6-stag), Nov. 12 and 14 (6-stag) and Nov. 19 and 21 (7-stag championship). Backing up the event are Pit Fighter and Red Gel Forte of Lakepue Drug Inc., Thunderbird Enertone, Excellence Gamefowl Specialists, Amtyl 500 and Derby Ace of San Miguel Feeds, Inc. For details, please call 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341 or 635-4799 (Mr. Rene Diaz). LGBA secretariat can be reached at 911-8969 and 687-2449.

Pasay meet tonight

THE 2002-2003 cock season starts early at the Pasay City Cockpit, with the staging tonight of a special 3-cock event designed for smalltime cockers and backyard breeders. More than 50 fast-paced fights are scheduled tonight, according to PCC managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano. For a minimal entry fee of P2,200, the winners stand to receive a guaranteed pot of P50,000 plus a brand new scooter. Another 3-cocker with the same format will be held on Oct. 25. Interested parties may contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

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Race 6–1. Halo Effect 2. Tatler Cover 3. Perfect Storm 4. Burning Light 5. Loose Cannon
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Race 8–1. Voice of Destiny 2. Big Treasure 3. Privately Owned 4. Santa Fe 5. Cycloneferros
Race 9–1. Judicial System 2. Morning After 3. Dedicated 4. Irish Diplomat 5. Shen Zhen Girl

NBA

12 days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that that the NBA's worst defensive team forced their opponents to only 12 turnovers per game last season? That team is the Houston Rockets, but that may all change this year with the entry of top rookie pick 7-5 Yao Ming.

Dizon shares golfest lead

By Jong Arcano

NEVER Compromise.

The label on his replacement putter became rookie pro Marlon Dizon's rallying point in keeping his focus in the face of Antonio Lascuna's all-out charge as the two ended up tied for the top spot after the penultimate round of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit opening leg at the Sta. Elena course in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Staying afloat for the third straight day, the 25-year-old Dizon remained in the hunt to become the first player to win his maiden outing in the pro tour in recent years after a rocky round of two-under-par 70 enabled him to match the pacesetting 214 aggregate for 54 holes Lascuna posted earlier.

Lascuna, the dusky Davaoeño out to spoil the planned coming out party of two debuting pros who have dominated action the first two rounds, scorched the back nine with four birdies en route to a three-under 69 to catch Dizon at the top.

While Dizon held his ground, his second round co-leader Cookie LaO lost two precious strokes on the way home and dropped three shots behind in second place at 217 together with Ruben Sasutil after 54 holes of the P500,000 tourney kicking off a 12-leg nationwide tour sponsored by the First Gentleman.

Sasutil, given up for dead after a lousy start of 78, continued his climb back to contention with a 68, the best score so far after three days.

The top four players could only be the ones left fighting for the championship as the next man standing, World Cup veteran Mars Pucay, stood seven strokes behind at 221 after a 73 although his familiarity with the course may allow him to pull off a final day magic.

Jao team favored

THE JOLET Jao-led Shell Advance-Rolex Engineering rider is expected to dominate anew the season-ending races in the 2002 Shell Advance-National Super Bike Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas on Sunday, Oct. 20.

Even with the overall title safely tucked under his belt as early as two months ago, Jao vowed to go all-out in the final two rounds to put the finishing touches to another memorable season on the racetrack and give thousands of motorsports fans something to cheer about.

Jao's expected victory in road racing will come a few weeks before another Shell-sponsored rider, Ernie Leongson, will be crowned national motocross champion.

Southwoods edges Northwoods, enters Fed League semis

MANILA Southwoods went to its main man, Jerome Delariarte, when the match was on the line and the Asian Gamer responded to the challenge in winning a sudden playoff for his team with high-low partner Romy Vergara against upset-conscious Royal Northwoods in their 2002 Federation Golf League quarterfinals duel recently.

Delariarte had a tap-in birdie on the playoff hole after reaching the green in two from the most difficult of situations–a very bad hook lie, the wind blowing away from the pin at the left side of the green and a ravine right on the left on the green.

Although Northwoods' Rodel Mangulabnan was able to match the birdie from the bunker, his partner Omar Dungca turned goat when he three-putted for bogey. Vergara had earlier made his own par in regulation.

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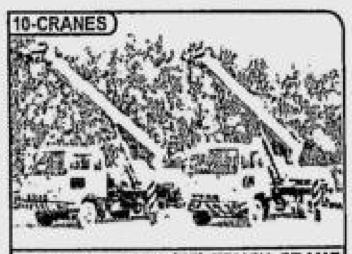
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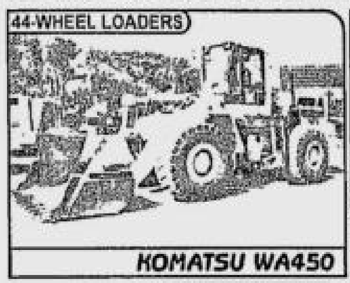
HINO RANGER (7T) TRUCK CRANE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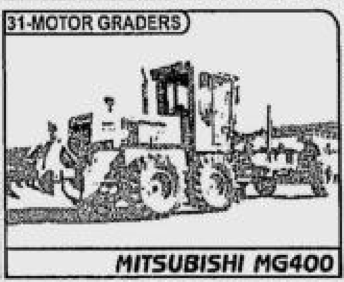
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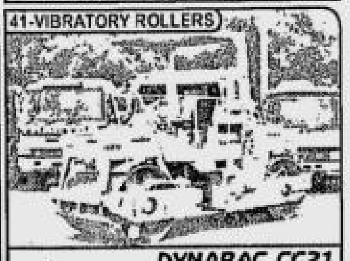
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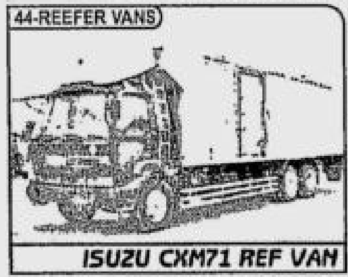
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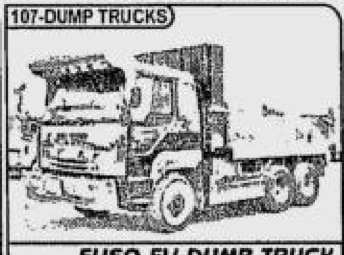
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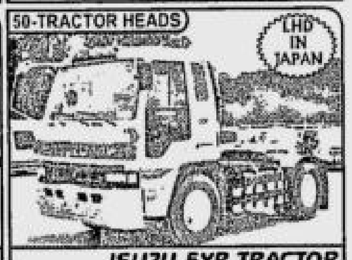
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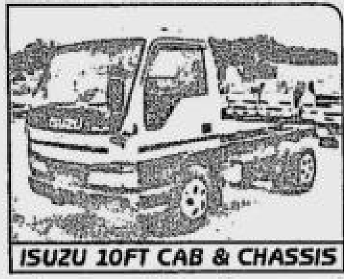
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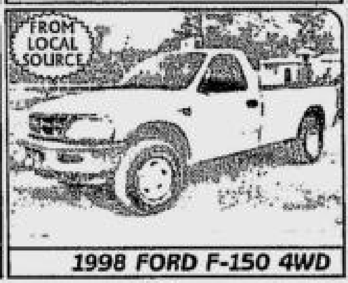
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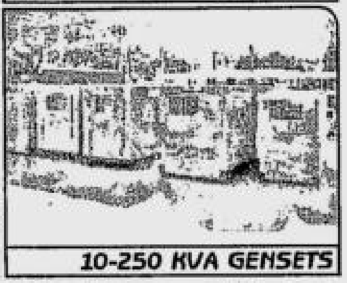
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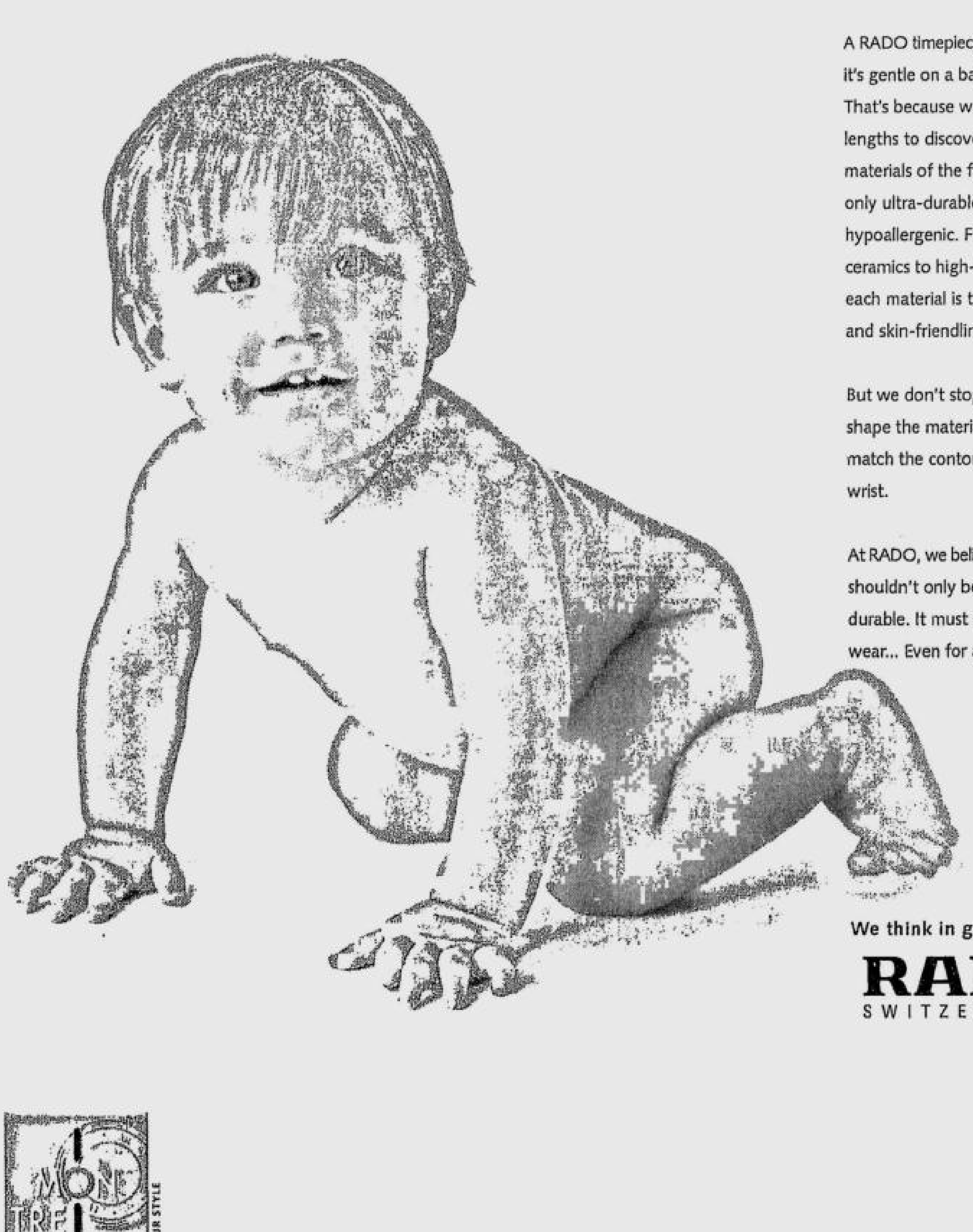

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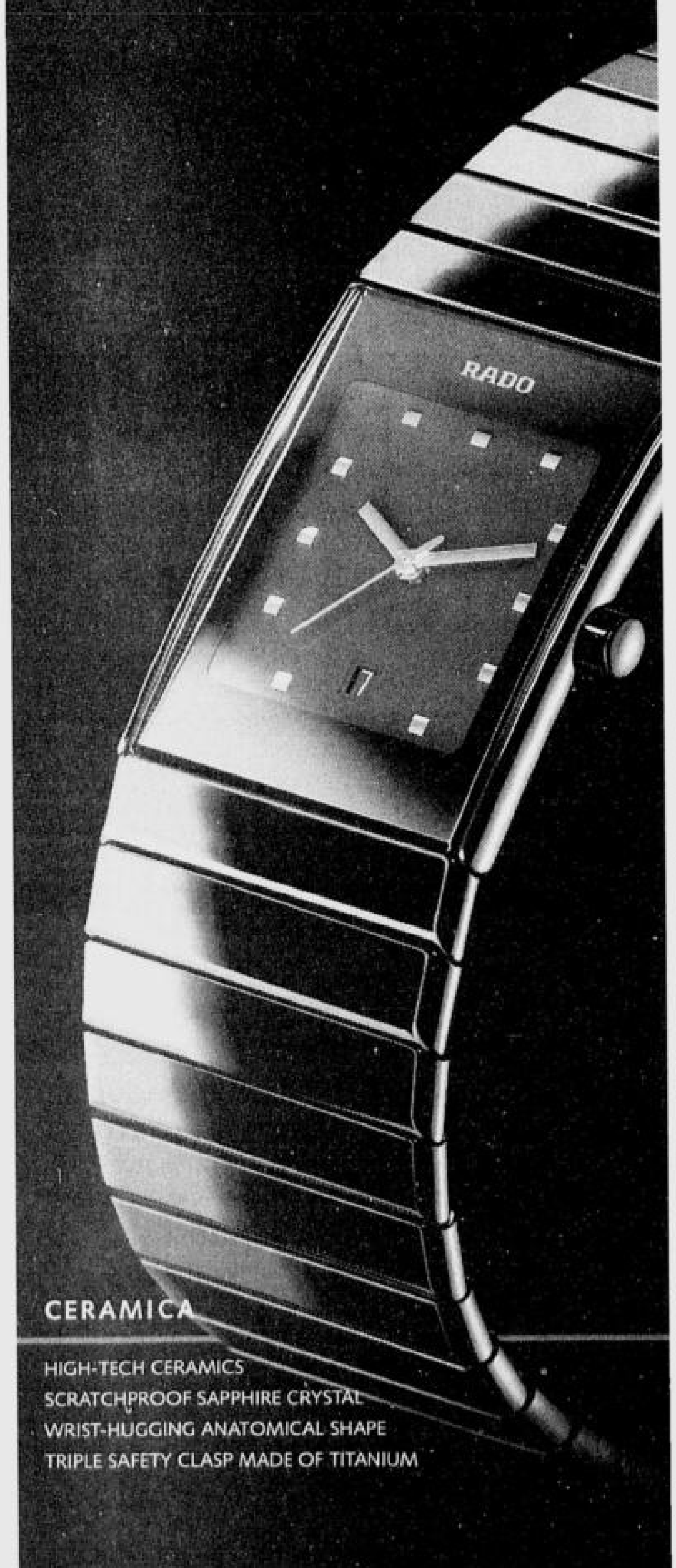

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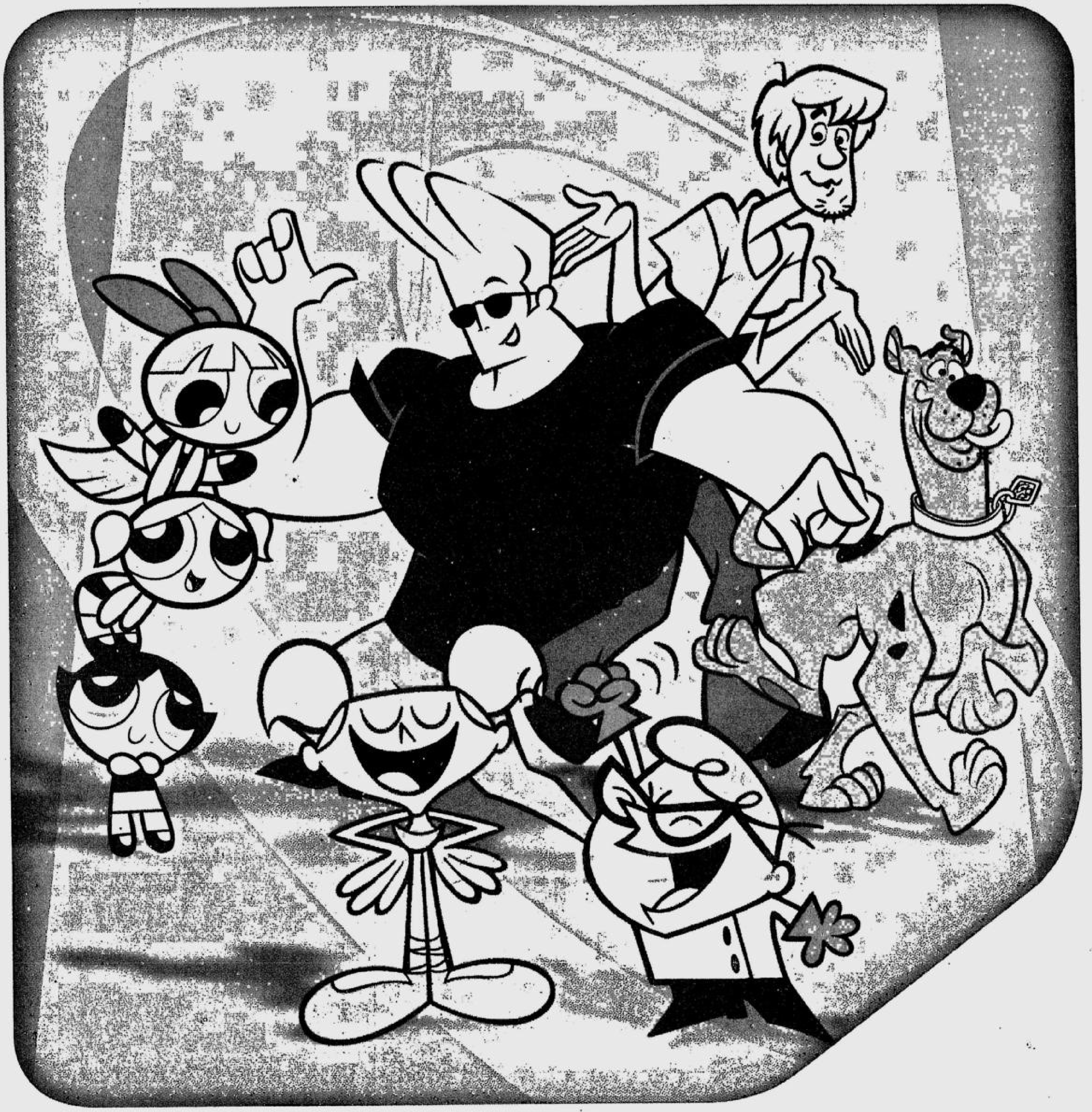

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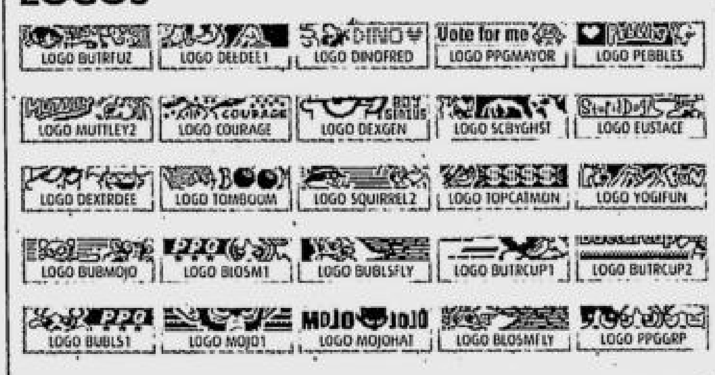
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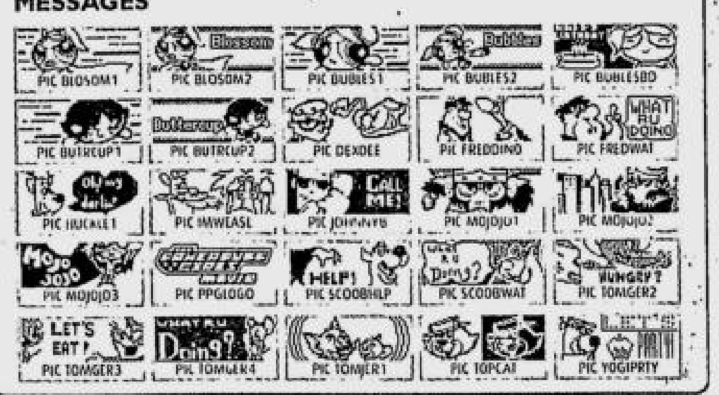
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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Man gets 5 death sentences for raping his daughters A26

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Solon wants MMDA to take on toll regulation

By Christian V. Esguerra

ANOTHER herculean task may be up for Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita is set to file today a bill seeking the abolition of the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), and he wants the powers, duties, and functions of the TRB transferred to the MMDA.

On top of overseeing metropolitan concerns such as traffic flow and garbage collection, the MMDA recently acquired jurisdiction over flood control from the Deparment of Public Works and Highways.

In his bill, the Parañaque lawmaker slammed the TRB for approving a petition for increase in toll rates at the North and South Luzon Tollways and the Skyway system.

Zialcita said the TRB decision was "arbitrary and wanting of due process since there were no hearings conducted to determine" the rate of increase.

He and other lawmakers from southern Metro Manila and nearby provinces have joined forces against the TRB after the Supreme Court junked two petitions against the toll increase.

Created by Presidential Decree No. 1112, the TRB exercises quasi-judicial

CONGRESSMAN/ A26

Drivers ask for P1 fare hike

By Agnes E. Donato and Leila B. Salaverria

A JEEPNEY drivers' organization yesterday asked the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board for a one-peso fare increase.

If the petition of the Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Operator Nationwide (Piston) is approved, the minimum jeepney fare will go up from P4.00 to P5.00.

But jeepney drivers in Makati have assured Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay that they would

DRIVERS/ A26

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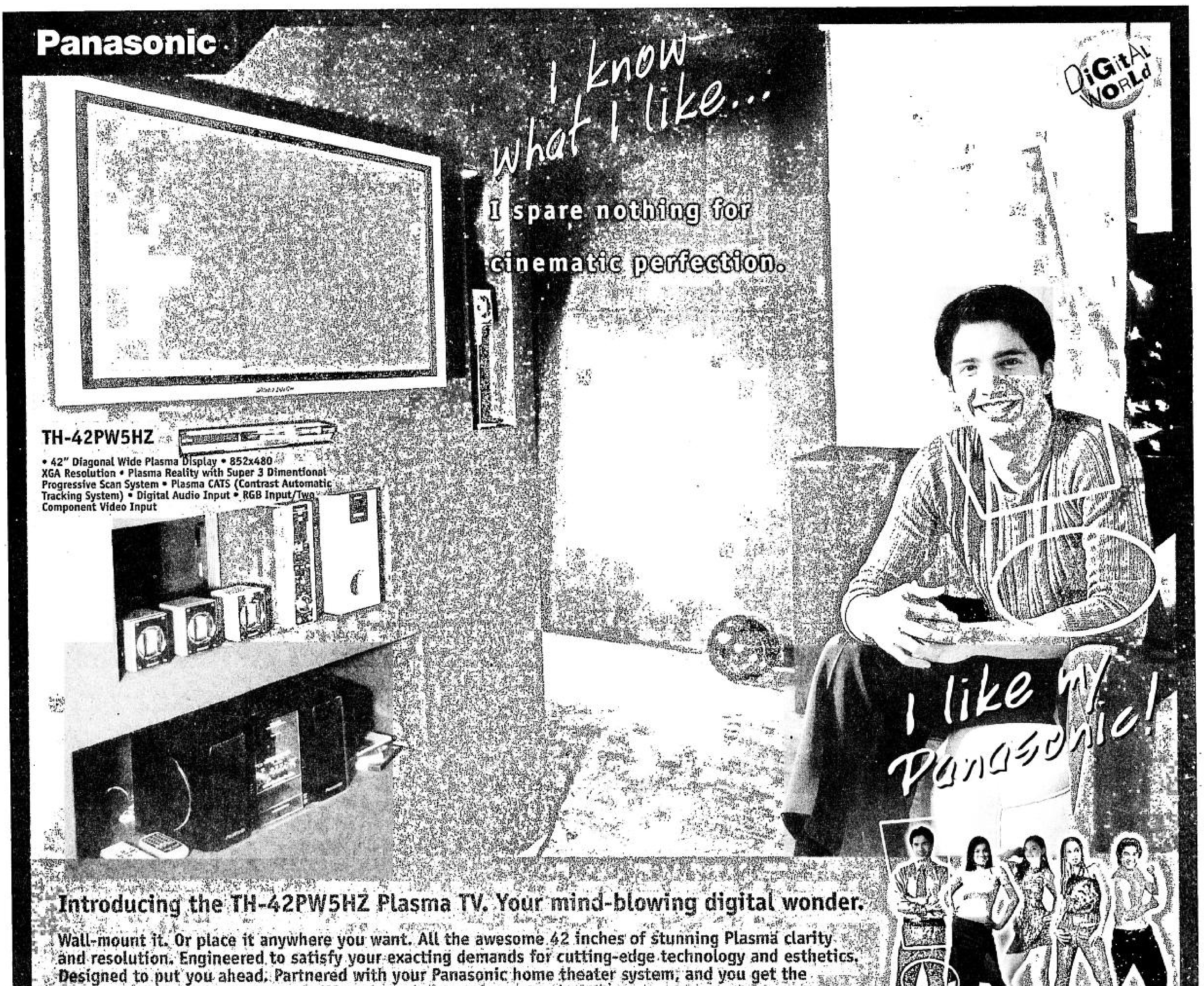

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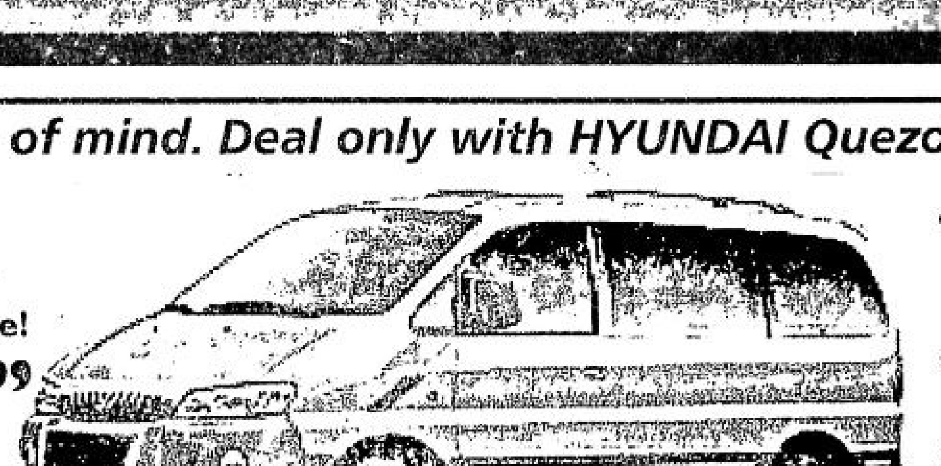

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Atienza opposes MRT-4, bats for subway

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday backed the move of an opposition councilor who wanted City Hall to oppose the construction on España Boulevard of the overhead tracks of the proposed Metro Rail Transit 4.

Atienza agreed with Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing that España could suffer the same "degeneration" experienced by Taft and Rizal Avenues when the Light Rail Transit was built there in the late '80s.

The mayor instead recommended the construction of an underground railway network or a subway.

"A subway is cheaper for the government because there will be no expropriations of private lots for the tracks and its stations and consequently, less litigations," he said.

Atienza said commerce and traffic would have less interruptions during the construction of a subway.

Replying to queries on the possibility that subways would be flood-prone because Manila has a poor drainage system and is "sinking" geologically, Atienza said that "there is sufficient technology to prevent that."

Bagatsing, the council's minority leader, said commerce on Rizal and Taft Avenues took years to recover and adapt to the overhead LRT.

He said that the LRT line over Sta. Cruz and Quiapo also effectively erased what used to be known as Manila's "downtown."

The 4th district alderman has filed an ordinance disallowing the rise of infrastructures along España that are "destructive to the area's economic welfare."

Covered by the proposal is the entire stretch of España from Morayta and Lerma streets to the Mabuhay Rotunda on the Manila-Quezon City boundary.

The only construction which Bagatsing wants are "those that are not continuous and do not impede the view from the buildings and establishments on either side of the boulevard."

Not covered by the ordinance are the setting up of light posts and electric poles, road and sewer repair, and the construction of individual buildings along España.

Bagatsing said España is one of Sampaloc's major arteries, adding that the boulevard is currently experiencing a "boom."

He said this is reflected by the increase in, or redevelopment of, various commercial and residential establishments.

The proposed MRT-4 will cover 22.6 kilometers and have 24 stations from the Old Bilibid Prisons in Quiapo to Quirino Highway in Novaliches, QC.

There will be two stations in Manila—one in Old Bilibid and the other in front of the University of Sto. Tomas.

The $960 million project was proposed by a French-Filipino consortium and got the approval of the National Economic Development Authority in 1998.

The consortium is seeking final approval for the project from the Transportation Department and Malacañang.

The new train system could be operational as early as 2007 and would serve more than 500,000 commuters when completed by 2021.

House security man nabbed in buy-bust

By Alcuin Papa

A SECURITY officer of the House of Representatives is now in hot water after he and another cohort were arrested in a buy-bust operation in Quezon City Wednesday night.

Policemen said Ramil Bulos, 40, of Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City and Robert Castillo, 40, a legislative security aide of the House of Representatives, and resident of Smile City Homes, Novaliches, Quezon City, were caught at around 6:30 p.m. on IBP Road.

Officials of the Central Police District's Drug Enforcement Unit said they quickly dispatched a team to collar the suspects as soon as they learned of the drug activities.

Narcotics policemen arrested Bulos and Castillo shortly after an undercover policeman collected what turned out to be shabu from the suspects.

Police recovered from the two P10,000 in marked money.

The two men are now detained at the CPD headquarters in Camp Karingal.

City prosecutors have recommended no bail for the suspects.

ITIGIL ANG PULIS

BLEEDING THEM DRY
Muslim residents of a slum area near the Botanical Garden on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, march to the office of the Commission on Human Rights to denounce what they call the "illegal activities of policemen in their area." The marchers said Quezon City policemen have been harassing them, and bleeding them dry.

JOAN BONDOC

Ma holds hostage own son, 2

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE LACK of money drove a mother to the edge of sanity.

Rochelle Cordero, 27, yesterday beat up her two-year-old son, poked a knife at him and refused to release him after he woke her up inside their shanty in Manila and asked for money to buy snacks, police said.

But Cordero, who lives with the boy and her live-in partner barangay *tanod* Joel Diaz in a shanty under a bridge on UN Avenue, surrendered to police after a few minutes of negotiations.

Police found on her the fan knife she used to take hostage her son.

A report at the WPD Women's and Children's Desk said that the incident happened at 8:30 a.m. inside the family's shanty. It said Cordero was asleep when her son crept up to her and began tapping her on the shoulder.

The report said the boy was so hungry that he woke up his mother to ask for loose change so he could buy food.

An irritated Cordero woke up and told her son they had no money, police said.

She has no job and her live-in partner Diaz, 26, is a barangay *tanod*.

The boy began to cry out loud, infuriating his mother, police said. She then began beating up the kid, who cried even louder.

The boy's father, Diaz, heard the boy's cries and told Cordero to stop beating their son.

But Cordero got angrier, took a fan knife and poked it at the boy, police said.

Diaz then sought help from police who arrived at the scene and convinced Cordero to surrender after some time, police said.

MMDA to create alternative routes on government properties

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Development Authority will focus on creating alternative routes that run through government properties to counter the lack of usable roadways in the metropolis and in turn alleviate traffic congestion.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said that before the MMDA jump starts its campaign to open roads of private subdivisions to the public, alternative routes would first be built on public property.

"Right now, efforts are focused on opening up access roads through government properties," Fernando told reporters.

He added that the MMDA had already spoken to several government agencies about the plan.

"Various government agencies have been asked to submit their access development plans so that we can map out access roads," Fernando said.

Once this project is finished, the MMDA would turn to the use of private subdivisions' roads, a plan that some homeowners have opposed mostly due to security reasons.

Fernando pointed out that the government could use roads of private subdivisions, reiterating that there is no such thing as a private road.

He also urged private subdivision residents to take action while the MMDA focuses on building roads on government property.

"It would be a good idea for subdivisions to re-plan their communities and create avenues that would interconnect their roads," Fernando said. "The plan may also serve the commercial needs of the community."

The MMDA chair has cited the lack of usable roadways in Metro Manila as one of the factors that contribute to the traffic congestion that perennially haunts Metro Manila.

One of his solutions to this problem is to remove obstructions not just on main thoroughfare, but on side streets and secondary roads as well. This way, motorists would be able to take advantage of underutilized roads, Fernando has said.

Asistio, Malonzo swap charges over P700-M Gotesco land deal

By Tina Santos

A MORO-MORO was how former Caloocan City Mayor Boy Asistio described incumbent Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo's vetoing of a city ordinance that authorized him to negotiate for the sale of a piece of city property where the Gotesco mall now stands.

Asistio said Malonzo's veto was not meant to stop the P700-million Gotesco deal, but was done to make it appear that the mayor was against the sale. He added that Malonzo himself had pushed the city council to pass the ordinance.

The former mayor alleged that the "moro-moro" would allow Malonzo to "clear himself of the questionable deal and at the same time enjoy the money from the transaction."

He cited an affidavit which was submitted on Feb. 29, 1999 to the National Bureau of Investigation by former city councilor Franceslina Rebolledo, more popularity known as Cherry Sarmiento.

Asistio said that in this affidavit, Rebolledo had "exposed everything she knew about the Gotesco deal."

Rebolledo said in the affidavit that sometime in June 1997, Malonzo summoned the city councilors at the mayor's office for a closed-door meeting attended by her and the nine other councilors.

She said the mayor presided over the meeting and tried to convince them to agree to his plan to sell the property to raise money for the city coffers.

She quoted Malonzo in her affidavit as telling the city councilors after he vetoed the ordinance that it was all for show and for them not to worry.

Rebolledo also claimed in her affidavit that when the council asked Malonzo what would happen to their reputations, the mayor replied that money would make their reputations clean. Asistio said that Malonzo only wanted a way out of the anomalous deal by deceiving the city council into passing the same ordinance for a new amended contract or deed of sale by overriding his veto.

"The sale pushed through without him signing the sale because he made it appear that he vetoed the ordinance and the city council overrode his veto. He also appeared as the hero," Asistio said.

But in his June 17, 1999 counter affidavit (NBI Evidence No. 125), Malonzo said that Rebolledo's affidavit "does not at all deserve the precious time and attention of the NBI since it contains nothing more than self-serving accusations, fabricated lies and unsubstantial concoctions."

Man gets 5 death sentences for raping his daughters

A MAN who was found guilty of raping his two daughters yesterday received five death sentences from a Caloocan City judge.

In an 8-page decision, Judge Silvestre Bello Jr. of the Caloocan City Regional Trial Court Branch 128 meted out the death sentences by lethal injection to the accused, a resident of Samson Road in Caloocan City.

Judge Bello also ordered the man to serve four to six years of imprisonment for acts of lasciviousness and fined him a total of P200,000 in moral damages.

Court records showed that the man had began raping his daughters, then 14 and 17 years old, in 1995, and continued the abuse for three years.

The older victim told the court that her father raped her while she was asleep inside their home. She said the sexual abuse was frequent—at least 10 times a month—especially when her mother left to work in Qatar in May 1996.

She said she did not immediately reveal her ordeal because of her father's threat that he would create a scandal in the neighborhood.

She also told the court that at one instance, her younger sister witnessed the rape.

When she learned that her younger sister had also been raped by their father, the girl decided to report the rapes and file a case against their father, the victim said.

In convicting the accused, the court gave more weight on the testimonies of the victims, saying that they were "straightforward, categorical and convincing."

The court said: "Showing no signs of remorse, they (the victims) braved the embarrassment and stigma of a public trial, came forward and courageously revealed the dastardly acts of their own father."

The accused said in his defense that it was unlikely for him to rape his daughters and that the victims only filed a complaint upon the instigation of their mother, who harbored ill fillings toward their father.

But the court found this "too flimsy to believe."

The court said that the accused "relied heavily on the defense of denial," and ruled that "denial is inherently weak and cannot prevail over the rape victims' positive identification of their ravisher who is their own father."

Alpha Phi Beta fellowship

THE ALUMNI Association of the Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity of the University of the Philippines will hold its monthly fellowship social Friday, Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ilang-Ilang Hall, Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan.

The fellowship social is sponsored by the fraternity's Batch '63. Dinner and drinks will be served. The program includes musical numbers, messages from prominent brods, raffle prizes and surprise features.

Members of the alumni association may get more information by calling Rene Valdecantos, 0917-383-8676, Sani Yuzon, 0917-846-1009, and Bani Aguirre, 0917-343-0797.

QC burglars hit amnesty commission office

By Alcuin Papa

NO AMNESTY for these thieves.

Unidentified men on Wednesday broke into the office of a commissioner of the National Amnesty Commission in Quezon City and stole a computer worth P18,000 and P13,000 in cash.

Commissioner Fatemah Remedios Balbin, who is also chair and president of the Foundation for Social Justice, appeared before the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit to file the complaint on the burglary.

She said the thieves entered her office at the ground floor of the Tempus Place Condo II on Matalino Street in Diliman, Quezon City, which she had closed about 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Balbin said that the glass door had been broken when she and her staff arrived the following day.

Solon wants MMDA to take on…

From page A25

functions in determining toll rates in the Skyway system and in the two expressways.

It is under the direct supervision of the Office of the President.

Even before he could file the bill, Zialcita already got huge support yesterday from motorists and Laguna residents who also wanted the TRB abolished.

"The TRB has been working against the interest of the people," said Ray Junia of the Movement for Responsible Enterprise.

The TRB came under fire after it allowed adjustments in toll rates last December. The first round of toll increase took effect in January while the second was implemented in the middle of the year.

Zialcita and lawyer Ceferino Padua filed two separate petitions but the Supreme Court dismissed the petitions on mere technicality.

Both petitioners were told to go to the TRB, which is still hearing another petition filed by Junia and other motorists.

"If we could have our way, we would withdraw our case at the TRB and proceed to the Office of the President or the Supreme Court," Junia said. "The TRB has clearly shown bias against us so how can we expect a favorable decision?"

Drivers ask for P1 fare hike

From page A25

not hike their fares unless the price of diesel and gasoline goes up to P15.50.

Piston president Medardo Roda said the petition was the group's response to the spat of price increases implemented by the major oil companies--Shell, Caltex and Petron.

Roda noted that diesel prices had increased by at least P2.20 since last March, thereby decreasing the already small income of jeepney drivers.

He claimed that with the current minimum fare, a jeepney driver gets to take home only P45 a day.

This was based on a gross income of P1,200 minus the cost of 30 liters of diesel at P14.99/liter (P449.70), three meals (P105), maintenance expenses (P100) and boundary (P500).

"Per NEDA (National Economic Development Authority) report, a Filipino family of six now requires at least P532.53 per day (as of May 2002) to answer for the family's basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, health, education etc.," Roda said in the petition.

"This means that the take-home pay of the driver is way, way below the NEDA-recommended income for the family's survival needs."

Clark Kent as a lonely teenager

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MANY years ago, there was a film made, not on Superman, but on the hero as a teenager, Superboy. It was a small and rather naïve production, showing the young visitor from outer space as a social misfit both admired and feared by many due to his mind-boggling super-powers.

Even as a tyke, he would be shown lifting an entire car with one pudgy hand to save the person pinned underneath the vehicle.

Flashforward decades later to "Smallville," the new hit series on the teenage years of Clark Kent before he emerged in full possession of his young-adult powers as Superman. It's Superboy all over again, but what a difference a few decades and a new, more with-it sensibility make.

This time around, the teen Superboy doesn't wear a costume with an "S" or his chest. In fact, he looks pretty awkward and insecure, a loser and klutz despite his height and good looks.

How come he can't seem to get his super-act together? For one thing, his amazing abilities have to be kept hidden and unrefined because they would otherwise terrify the town in which he lives. And the town has been traumatized enough by the violent meteor "attack" that wreaked terrible damage in terms of property destroyed and lives lost.

Another factor is the fact that Lana Lang, the girl young Clark has a secret crush on, has a kryptonite pendant hanging from her neck. So, everytime Clark approaches her, he falls ill and faints, and everyone finds this klutzy and funny.

It turns out that Clark isn't the only "anomaly" in town as a result of the meteor shower. There's another young klutz who was mercilessly razzed by some football jocks and turned into a human scarecrow (complete with a red "S" scrawled all over his upper torso).

When he was hit by a meteor, the poor klutz suddenly acquired super-electric powers that he later used to get back at the jocks who had so cruelly "crucified" him.

Another young victim is Lex Luthor, the son and heir of a heartless industrialist, who eventually takes over his father's "empire." Clark saves him from drowning when his car plummets into a river, and they become soul-brothers. But it's intimated that Lex will turn into Clark's nemesis in episodes to come.

As these and other subplots are developed, it becomes clear that one of the new approaches in this series on Superman's teenage years is its psychological rather than supernatural bent. The show spends a lot of time portraying Clark as a gifted but lonely soul, not just a social misfit, but also psychologically an odd-man-out who is constantly foiled in his search for acceptance and love in a world that isn't his own.

There are feats of super-strength shown in this series, but much more screen time is devoted to Clark's feelings and his various unfolding relationships.

A deft and novel touch is the initial episode's use of the "S" on the "human scarecrow's" chest as an early foreshadowing of the signature and totemic "S" on Superman's costume.

Other effective symbolic touches are pulled off in terms of dialogue, like Clark's earth-mother whispering "I see a little face" before the super-child shyly walks into her world, and Clark's lonely cry and recurring mantra, "I'd give anything to be normal!"

Portrait of Superboy as a square peg in a round hole, to make it really easy for millions of similarly insecure and unhappy teenagers to empathize with. "Smallville" airs on Studio 23 every Tuesday at 9 p.m.

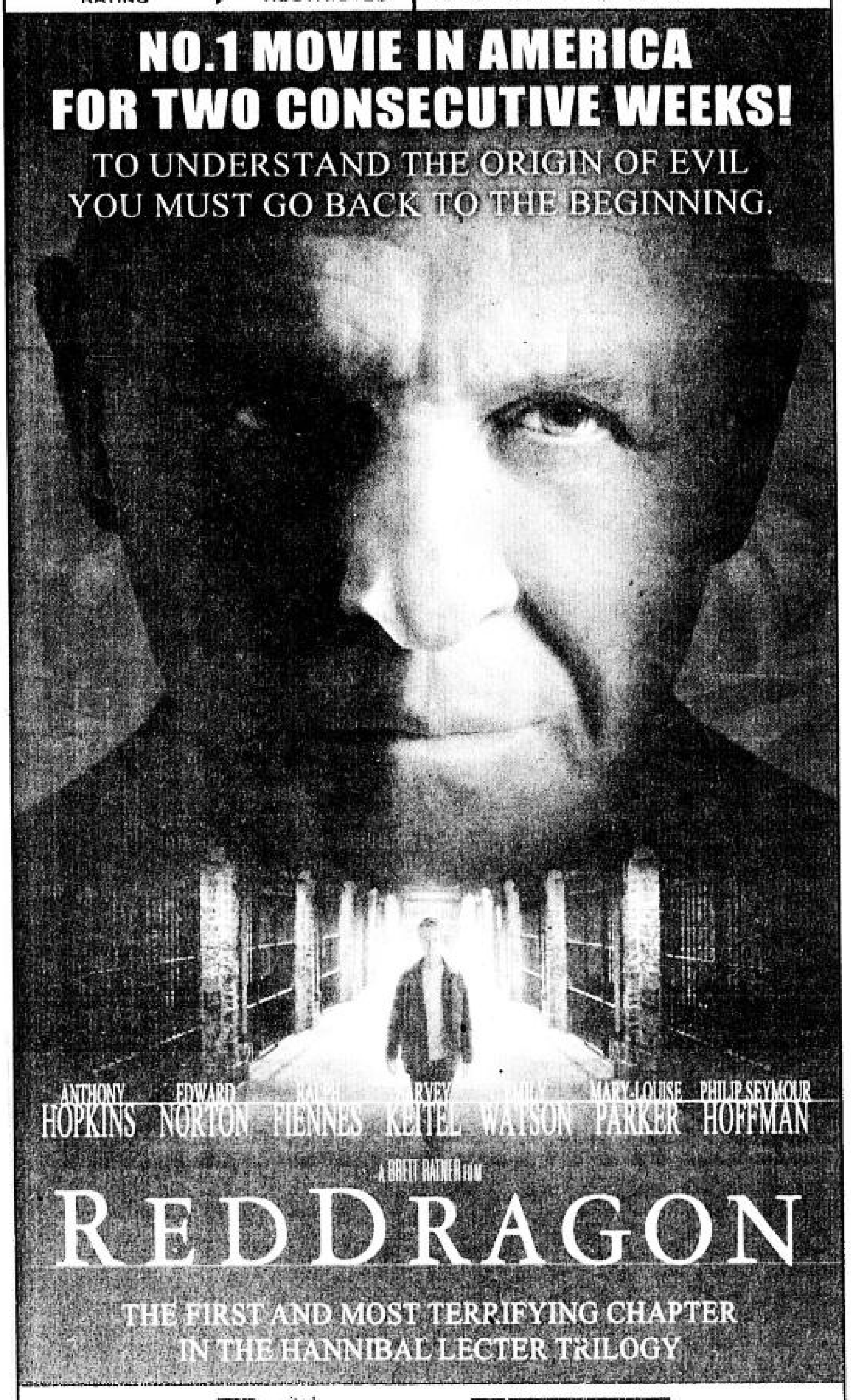
Flicker Cuts

"COP Land," starring **Sylvester Stallone, Robert De Niro** and **Harvey Keitel,** will be screened on Star Movies at 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18.

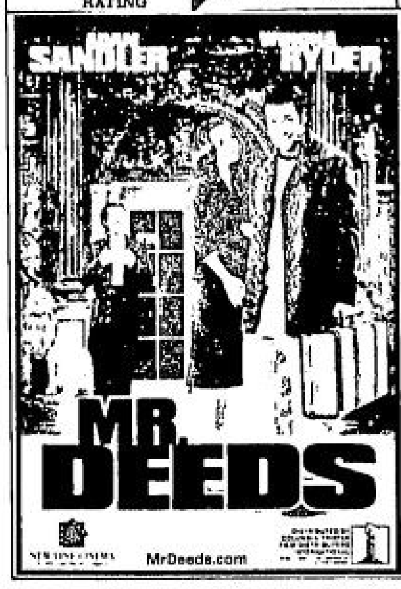
World's biggest

On Oct. 21 in Marikina City, **Boy Abunda** will host the

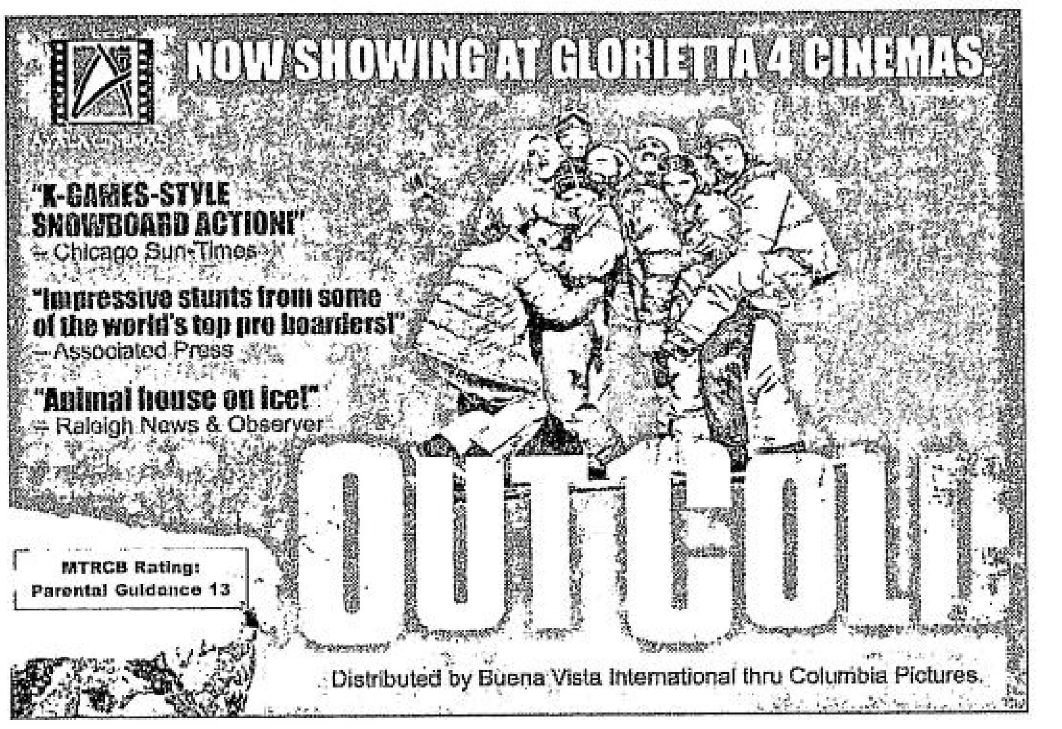
CLARK/ A31



MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
NO.1 MOVIE IN AMERICA FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS!
TO UNDERSTAND THE ORIGIN OF EVIL YOU MUST GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING.
ANTHONY HOPKINS EDWARD NORTON RALPH FIENNES HARVEY KEITEL EMILY WATSON MARY-LOUISE PARKER PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN
A BRETT RATNER FILM
RED DRAGON
THE FIRST AND MOST TERRIFYING CHAPTER IN THE HANNIBAL LECTER TRILOGY
United International Pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
OPENS OCTOBER 23



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
Laugh, fall in love!
SECOND WEEK
Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems.
When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited.
Babe (WINONA RYDER), a tabloid reporter posing as a small-town girl to get the inside story, discovers Deeds' sincerity and big heart, and finds herself falling for him.
After *The Wedding Singer* and *Big Daddy*, Adam Sandler is back as the clumsy, sweet guy who gets the girl in *Mr. Deeds*.
It's the most fun you'll have on a date movie!
BRING A DATE, the laughs are on MR. DEEDS.
ADAM SANDLER WINONA RYDER MR. DEEDS
MrDeeds.com



NOW SHOWING AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
"X-GAMES-STYLE SNOWBOARD ACTION!" — Chicago Sun-Times
"Impressive stunts from some of the world's top pro boarders!" — Associated Press
"Animal house on ice!" — Raleigh News & Observer
OUT COLD
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures.

Instituto Cervantes ¡FIESTA! AYALA CINEMAS ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
Spanish Festival for Culture and Arts Films
OCTOBER 20 - 26, 2002 ONLY AT ARTFILM - GREENBELT 1

October 20 (Sun)
La Ardilla Roja 11:30pm
Bwana 2:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
Solas 7:00pm
Tesis 9:30pm

October 21 (Mon)
El Abuello 11:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 2:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 4:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Bwana 7:00pm
Goya En Burdeos 9:30pm

October 22 (Tue)
Goya En Burdeos 11:30pm
Solas 2:00pm
Tesis 4:30pm
El Abuello 7:00pm
La Ardilla Roja 9:30pm

October 23 (Wed)
Retrato de Mujer 11:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
El Abuello 2:00pm
Bwana 4:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 224 (Thu)
Tesis 11:30pm
Goya En Burdeos 2:00pm
El Abuello 4:30pm
Bwana 7:00pm
Retrato de Mujer 9:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo

October 25 (Fri)
El Abuello 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:30pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Bwana 4:30pm
Tesis 7:00pm
Solas 9:30pm

October 26 (Tue)
Bwana 11:30pm
Retrato de Mujer 2:00pm
Con Homre Al Fondo
Goya En Burdeos 4:30pm
Solas 7:00pm
Tesis 9:30pm

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AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING
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All Digital Sound

G1 (GLORIETTA 1)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	G4 (GLORIETTA 4)	GB1 (GREENBELT 1)	ATC (ALABANG TOWN CENTER)
1 BALLISTIC ECKS vs. SEVER	1 THE TUXEDO	4 OUT COLD (EXCLUSIVE)	1 THE TOUCH	1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
2 THE TUXEDO	2 9 MORNINGS	5 THE TOUCH	2 THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (EXCLUSIVE) 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	2 9 MORNINGS
3 9 MORNINGS	3 MR. DEEDS 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	6 BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER	3	3 POSSESSION
4 MASIKIP MAINIT... PARAISONG PARISUKAT		7 POSSESSION	4 MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE (THE REPEAT) OCT 18-19, 25-26	4 THE TUXEDO
				5 MR. DEEDS

The Ayala Malls Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU
this halloween be charmed at the Ayala Malls.
Makati - Greenbelt Park
October 31, 10 pm
Green Lounge Halloween Ball
Alabang
October 30, 1 - 4 pm
Mallwide Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza
Halloween Party featuring Southborder
Cebu
October 27, 1 - 5 pm, Activity Center
Trick or Treat for Kids
October 30 & 31, 8 pm
Food & Entertainment Center
Halloween Parties
Ayala Malls. Because you deserve more.
Win a prize, visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph
www.ayalaland.com.ph

MAY MGA BAGAY NA,
'IKA NGA WORTH WAITING FOR.
Robin Padilla. Judy Ann Santos. ...together.
Isang wish come true.
Jeannie
Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?
Tanya Garcia Asi Taulava
DIRECTED BY IKE JARLEGO, JR.
VIVA FILMS A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY Rexona REV-X LEONARDO
SHOWING NA SA OCTOBER 23!

Maryo J digs up a new find and casts him as an embalmer

INTRODUCING Iraz Melchor, with the "formerly wholesome" Maricar de Mesa.

By Remy Umerez
Contributor

IRAZ MELCHOR.

Add the name of the 22-year-old (real name: Melchor Alipio) to the dozen or so talents that director Maryo J. delos Reyes is managing.

"He has a pretty face, he is *moreno*, and is leading man material," says Maryo of his latest find. "He has expressive eyes and the cameras capture them so well."

After "Laman," Maryo has another "bold" movie for World Arts Cinema, "Bedtime Stories," the launching movie of former wholesome teener Maricar de Mesa.

"Bedtime Stories" is not about fairy tales. It is a trilogy in the tradition of "Red Diaries" which catapulted Assunta de Rossi to stardom.

The three episodes are about masochism, necrophilia and the drug called Ecstasy.

Iraz plays an embalmer in the necrophilia episode.

"He won't qualify as a drug user because I don't even see him smoke, nor has he experienced taking Ecstasy," says the director. "He would not pass as a wife beater because he looks as if he couldn't hurt a fly. There is a certain longing in his eyes which fits the character he is portraying.

"All his life, the character has loved this woman but has been unable to express it. Only when she dies does he show his affection by making love to her."

Iraz is one of the three children of a farmer and a teacher in La Paz, Tarlac. Iraz says he finished computer science at STI. He was first runner-up in the Search for a Handsome Guy contest. With his cash winnings from that competition, he bought himself a cell phone, says Iraz.

Then he auditioned for Tanghalang Pilipino and has appeared in more than a dozen plays, including a few musicals.

Iraz recently appeared on stage in "Luna" where he portrayed the young tragic hero Gregorio del Pilar. His other theater works include "Macbeth" in Pilipino where he played the role of Malcolm; "El Camino Real," a story about Emilio Aguinaldo where he played the young Aguinaldo; and "Illustrado," about brothers Juan and Antonio Luna.

It was on the stage that Iraz discovered he could sing. He hopes to be a recording artist someday.

Of his role as an embalmer obsessed with a woman, Iraz says: "Making love to a corpse on an embalming table was the most difficult part of the job. I asked myself, how many dead bodies have been laid on this table?"

He also had to show his buttocks when the role required that he jump into a river.

"I also have my limits," he says. "I don't think I am ready to do frontal nudity. It will take a lot of convincing from a good director to make me do it. Besides, I don't think the MTRCB (censors) will allow it."

Iraz says he loves to swim to add firmness to his physique. "I still have a lot of baby fat to get rid off."

How does he find Maricar as a co-worker?

"When the director said take off your clothes, she showed no qualms doing it," he says. "Maricar is very determined to reach her goal."

How about Maryo J. as a director?

"He is a patient person especially with newcomers like me," he says. "He goes over each scene in detail and if we miss a point, he will explain it again. He tells you where you've gone wrong. He would tell me if my acting was theatrical. Then I'd have to 'lower' my delivery."

World Arts Cinema, headed by couple Jojo and Totoy Galang, seems to be leaving no stone unturned to ensure the success of their first major offering. So far, they have already held four press conferences to publicize the movie.

During the presscons, Iraz did not show annoyance when the gender issue was raised or when he was asked whether he has a "papa" or gay benefactor.

"Of course, I have a papa and he plants rice in Tarlac," Iraz said in response to one such question. "My mother is a teacher."

'Guess who's on E!'

E! PHILIPPINES joins Guess in celebrating the 20th anniversary of Guess USA this weekend with "Guess who's on E!" featuring some of the label's most celebrated image models.

On Saturday, Oct. 19, beginning at 8 p.m., a special back-to-back edition of "The E! True Hollywood Story" features Guess models Anna Nicole Smith and Carre Otis.

Smith was a small-town girl who went from stripper to millionaire supermodel almost overnight. Through interviews with her friends, ex-lovers and family members, viewers learn that this voluptuous blonde's Hollywood fairy tale life was not as glamorous as it appeared to be.

At 10 p.m., "The E! True Hollywood Story" presents model and actress Carre Otis' story of an unhappy childhood and the events that led to her entry into the turbulent world of modeling. Otis discusses her rocky marriage to actor Mickey Rourke, how the ravishing beauty lived fast, crashed hard and came back into the spotlight as a plus-size model after surviving a bad marriage, drug abuse and an eating disorder.

And at 11 p.m., model Valeria Mazza goes "Wild on the Amazon." This edition of Wild On takes a look at the wild side of South America, from the nightclubs of Rio de Janeiro to the gauchos of Argentina.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, former Guess model Drew Barrymore is featured on Celebrity Profile at 8 p.m. This includes an exclusive interview with Barrymore as well as interviews with directors Steven Spielberg, Joel Schumacher and Wes Craven, co-stars Henry Thomas, Chris O'Donnell, Tom Skerritt, Mary Stuart Masterson and Whoopi Goldberg, and close friend Courtney Love.

The show also includes Barrymore's first commercial, clips from many of her films, and behind-the-scenes footage from Spielberg's "E.T".: The Extra-Terrestrial" never before seen on television.

At 9 p.m. Jules Asner has an exclusive interview with Barrymore in "Revealed With Jules Asner."

October in Star malls

AN EARLY Christmas comes to the Star Group of Malls, with mall-wide sales and a performance by a boy band.

As much as 50 percent discount on selected items await shoppers on Oct. 18, 19 and 20 in the Star Group of Malls.

At the Metropolis Star in Alabang, the Muntinlupa City government and the Rotary Club conduct the 4th quarter mega-job fair dubbed "Trabaho Para Sa 'Yo 2002" on Oct. 19 in the 4th level trade hall.

Also at the Metropolis Star, present purchase receipts for at least P150 at the Mall Customer Service and get a free balloon twist figure on Oct. 19, or a free face painting on Oct. 26.

At Star Mall, present P150 purchase receipts at Toys Toys Toys for a free Halloween mask. Nestle Ice Cream co-sponsors the event.

Every P40 meal purchase at the Foodcourt entitles you to buy a Frizzy Ice Drop for only P4.50 until Nov. 15, 2002.

The boy band Quwatro performs on Oct. 19 at the MStar in Las Piñas to promote their album.

Philippine products are on exhibit at the Exporter's Fair in the 2nd level Starmall Trade Hall. The fair runs from Oct. 16 to 31, 2002.

Every Wednesday and Friday this month in the 3rd level Bridgeway of Starmall are "Onstage@The Bridge" and "Lafzone," back-to-back shows featuring live music and hilarious sing-a-long masters. The fun begins at 6 p.m.

ANG BAGONG MILYONARYO

sa Kiss-Kiss 2 Millions

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WINNER OF ₱1,000,000

WINNERS OF ₱100,000

Julieta Martin Nevado
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Marianito B. Rafael
Bangued, Abra

Lorena Delluza
Cavite

WINNERS OF ₱25,000

Ronaldo G. Mendoza
San Fernando, Pampanga

Napoleon O. Acampado
Taytay, Rizal

Diana B. Pe
San Jose, Antique

Irene M. Matel
Valenzuela

Reggie David Mejia
Tarlac

Florian C. Legaspi
Naic, Cavite

Marissa D. Cabatug
Jaro, Iloilo City

Luis M. Salaysay
Nasugbu, Batangas

Emmanuel Requerra
Sampaloc, Manila

Mark Anthony Jaculo
Iloilo

Marites S. Manlansan
San Fernando, Pampanga

Roman Brady Jr.
Negros Occidental

WINNERS OF ₱10,000

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Tanauan City, Batangas

Joylen T. Sabedra
Tulay Ibaan, Batangas

Rosalia S. Caling
Makati City

Emelito M. Cascabel
Gen. T. de Leon, Valenzuela

Lyn Ronquillo
Calamba, Laguna

Margaret D. Mateo
Sta. Mesa Heights, Q.C.

Segundito V. Deligencia
Poblacion Balete, Aklan

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Concepcion, Marikina

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Ivan George M. Valdez II
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Nilo Santillan
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Ilocos Sur

Alfredo Valenzuela Jr.
Parañaque City

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Vigan, Ilocos Sur

Evangeline L. Laugo
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Norma R. Jumaquio
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Josephine A. Torres
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Caridad Patacsil
San Fernando, La Union

Angelina T. Sabandal
San Vicente, Butuan

Danilo Molina
Navy Base, Baguio

Bernardo Domingo Jr.
Bamban, Tarlac

Ariel G. Mateo
Binondo, Manila

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Angeles, Pampanga

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Bacoor, Cavite

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Makati City

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Manila

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AS OF OCT. 8, MAY 269 WINNERS NA NG ₱1,000
AT MAHIGIT SA 33,000 WINNERS NA NG ₱100.

May isa pang ₱1 Million prize at iba pang cash prizes na naghihintay sa iyo! Kaya join na! Baka ikaw na ang susunod na manalo sa Kiss-Kiss 2 Millions!

Promo EXTENDED up to November 30 , 2002.

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Autumn in New York

From page A32

New York is my all-time favorite American city. I cringed when they destroyed the Statue of Liberty in "Deep Impact," when the Chrysler building and the Brooklyn bridge collapsed in "Godzilla," when the tunnel was shut down after an explosion in "Daylight," when a giant ape fell to his death from the Empire State Building in "King Kong."

I flinched when **Patrick Swayze** was killed in a dark Manhattan alley and **Demi Moore** screamed and cried over his dead body in "Ghost," when **Bruce Willis** drove a Yellow Cab over Central Park's green grass in "Die Hard 3," when **Arnold Schwarzenegger** and **Vanessa Williams** destroyed a crocodile aquarium in the New York zoo in "Eraser" and when the boroughs were bombed in "The Siege."

But New York also witnessed countless love stories in movies. "Sleepless in Seattle" climaxed on top of the Empire State Building, where **Tom Hanks** finally found **Meg Ryan**. They were together again as rival bookstore owners in "You've Got Mail," also set in New York. I made sure I ate at Café Lalo, where they were supposed to meet for the first time. And I posed for a souvenir shot in the garden in 91st Street, where they kissed at the end of the movie.

Crying buckets

Many years before "Sleepless" was made, the film that inspired it, "An Affair to Remember," made women swoon over the dashing **Cary Grant**. I cried buckets as I watched Grant hold on to his painting while waiting for his beloved **Deborah Kerr** one rainy night on top of the Empire State Building.

The remake,"Love Affair," with real-life Hollywood couple **Warren Beatty** and **Annette Bening**, also melted my heart. "One Fine Day" made **George Clooney** and **Michelle Pfeiffer** fall in love after spending one long, frenzied day around the city.

At the ice cream house Serendipity, **Kate Beckinsale** and **John Cusack** who are both engaged to be married to their respective partners, left everything to chance after they met in the film, "Serendipity."

Meg Ryan jumped from Brooklyn Bridge to go back in time and follow the nobleman she loves in "Kate and Leopold."

I love New York because I can move around in the city on my own, without having to depend on a cousin or a friend to take me around. The mass transportation is so efficient. If you're scared to take the subway, there are Yellow Cabs at every corner.

In New York, I chanced upon a number of celebrities. My friend **Shirley Matias-Pizarro** and I saw **Keanu Reeves** while we were watching "Sunset Boulevard" at the Minskoff Theater, with **Betty Buckley** playing Norma Desmond. Reeves was by his lonesome and during intermission, while he was lining up to get a soda, we posed for a photo with him.

At the elevator in the lobby of Essex House in front of Central Park, I ran into **Danny Glover**, detective Richard Murtaugh in the "Lethal Weapon" series, opposit **Mel Gibson**'s Martin Riggs.

In an Italian restaurant in midtown Manhattan, I saw **Liza Minnelli** dining one evening.

At Planet Hollywood, the theme restaurant owned by the power triumvirate of **Sylvester Stallone**, Schwarzenegger and Willis, I witnessed how **Lea Salonga** was accorded special treatment when she fell in line outside to get a table. When the receptionist learned that Lea, the Broadway star of "Miss Saigon" was there, he pulled her out of the queue and gave her a function room for her group, much to the chagrin of the other people waiting to get in.

I was lucky to be with Lea's party at that time, along with her mom **Ligaya Salonga**, composer **Ryan Cayabyab** and executives of BMG Records Pilipinas.

Cash-strapped

At the Virgin Megastore in Times Square, I saw how young fans screamed their lungs out at the sight of **Joey McIntyre**, who had just broken away from the New Kids on the Block and launched his solo album.

There are dozens of other things I love about New York. Broadway will always drain my credit card or leave me cash-strapped. These days, a Broadway play or musical can cost as much as $98.

Aside from attending last night's gala of "Flower Drum Song," which marked Lea Salonga's return to Broadway, I was lucky to get a matinee ticket to "Mama Mia," at the Cadillac Winter Theater on 50th Street. The musical, highly recommended to me by INQUIRER Sports editor **Al Mendoza**, features some 20 Abba hits.

Two nights ago, I also watched Disney's "Lion King" for the second time at the new Amsterdam theater on 42nd Street.

The TKTS Booth is one of the first places I check out in the city, for discounted tickets to the musicals on Broadway.

I love riding the horse-drawn carriage and going around Central Park, taking the Staten Island ferry to see the towering Statue of Liberty, window-shopping at the ultra-chic designer boutiques along Fifth Avenue, checking out the new titles at Barnes and Noble, saying a little prayer at St. Patrick's Cathedral or simply sitting on a bench in Central Park.

Whatever time of the day, there is always something to do in this city.

'Munti' for Bukidnon

CARTWHEEL Foundation Inc., in cooperation with Teamwork Productions, announces the premiere presentation of the Gil Portes movie "Mga Munting Tinig" on Monday, Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. at SM Megamall Cinema 1.

"Mga Munting Tinig" stars Alessandra de Rossi, Gina Alajar, Amy Austria and Nonie Buencamino.

With the premiere, Cartwheel Foundation, an organization that builds schools for *lumads* in Mindanao, hopes to raise money for two preschool classrooms in Barangay Sitio Abel.

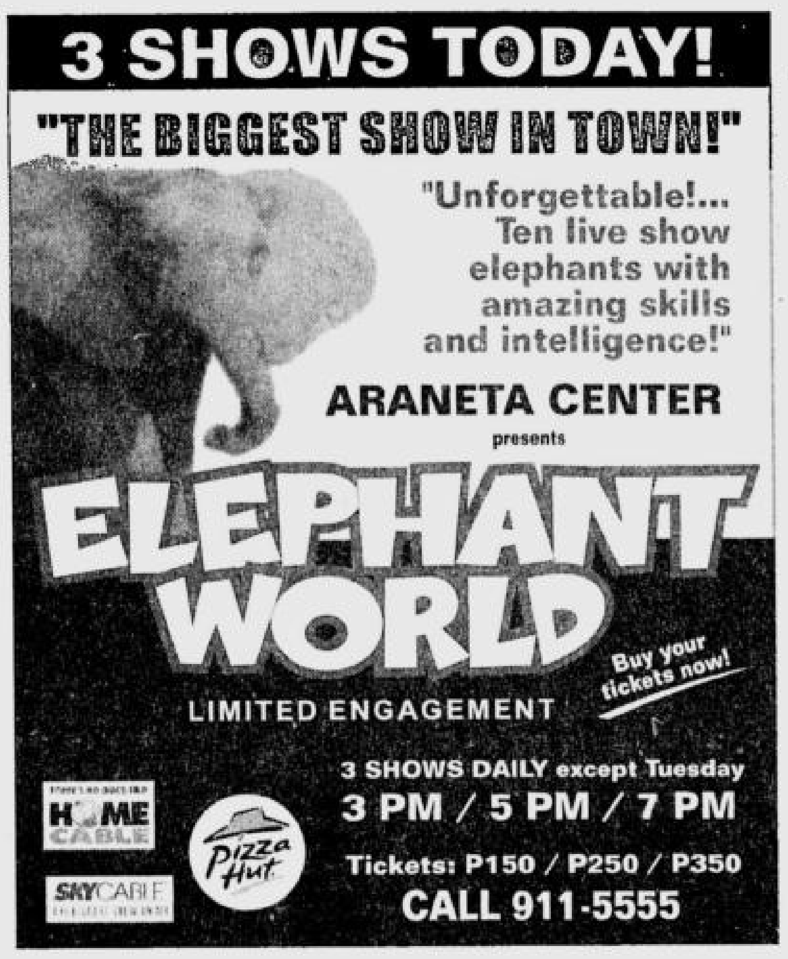
"Mga Munting Tinig" portrays much of the heart of Cartwheel's work. It was premiered in the 2002 Toronto International Film Festival and was chosen by the American Film Institute (AFI) as the only Filipino film in the 10 "Asian New Film Classics."

It has received invitations from various film festivals like Moscow, Locarno and Palm Springs international film festivals.

In articles on the Toronto Film Festival which appeared in the Daily Variety and the Hollywood Reporter, "Mga Munting Tinig" was one of the four film regularly mentioned.

For tickets to the premiere, call Cartwheel Foundation at 633-7442.

The event will begin with the live rendition of the theme song "Mga Munting Tinig" by the children in the film and a short welcome by director Portes.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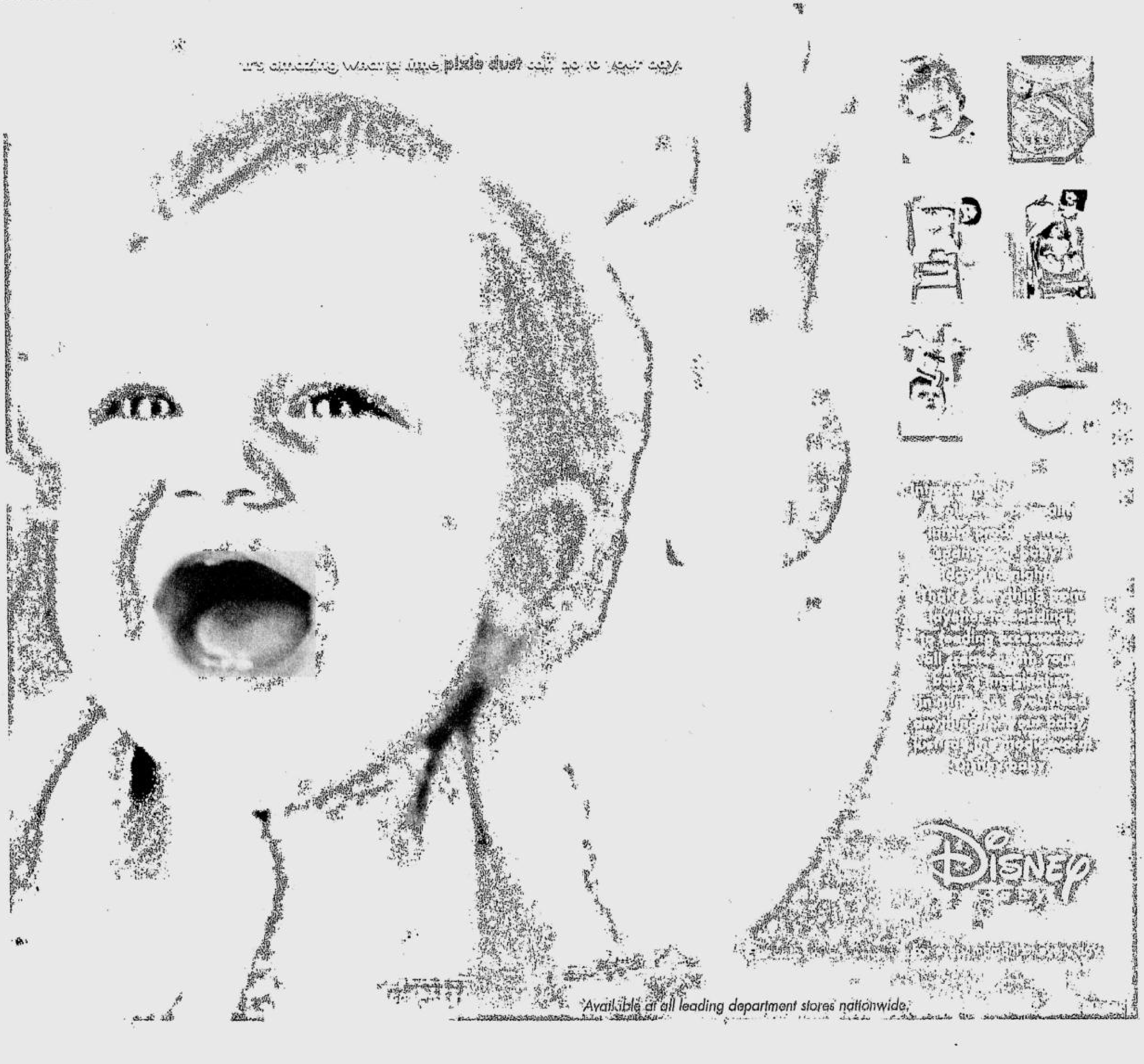
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MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

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4 GOLD (DTS) POSSESSION
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
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8 9 MORNINGS
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6 BALLISTIC ECKS VS SEVER
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
OCT. 16, 2002 PREMIERE OF "RED DRAGON" TIME 8:00 PM
OCT 17, 2002 "BALLISTIC" TIME 6:10, 8:20, 10:30PM
OCT 18, 2002 TIME 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 PM
OCT19, TO 20, 2002 TIME 4:00, 6:40, 8:20 PM

Center Plaza Cinema
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2 SPY KIDS 2

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2 BESTMAN
3 LOLLIPOP
4

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Gotesco City
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9 LOLLIPOP

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2 9 MORNINGS
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4 (SDDS) TUXEDO
5 (DTS) POSSESSION
6 TOUCH
7 MR DEEDS

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8 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
9 BLOOD RELATIONS
10 FRAILTY
11 PROSTI
12 9 MORNINGS

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4 BALLISTIC
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12 9 MORNINGS

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10 THE TOUCH

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3 ENOUGH
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2 CLOSED
3 TUXEDO
4 PROSTI
5 THE ROOKIE
6 9 MORNINGS
7 CLOSED
8 SPIDER

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2 THE TOUCH
3 BLOOD WORK
4 BESTMAN
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 9 MORNINGS

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1 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
2 BALLISTIC
3 9 MORNINGS
4 BESTMAN

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1 BALLISTIC
2 BESTMAN
3 9 MORNINGS
4 PARAISONG PARISUKAT

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2 VOODOO
3 TUXEDO
4 PROSTI
5 9 MORNINGS
6 FRAILTY

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1 POSSESSION
11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/9:10/10:45 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:35 END

2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
11:00 FS/11:10 MF/1:10/3:10/5:10/7:10/9:10/10:50 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3 PASSESSION
4 MR. DEEDS
5 9 MORNINGS
6 TUXEDO
7 THE TOUCH
8 MASIKIP MAINIT...
9 FRAILTY
10 BLOODWORK

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3 TUXEDO
4 POSSESSION
5 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
6 9 MORNINGS
7 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 THE TOUCH
2 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
3 TUXEDO
4 MR. DEEDS
5 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
6 BESTMAN
7 9 MORNINGS
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Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
2 BESTMAN
3 TUXEDO
4 THE TOUCH
5 FRAILTY
6 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
7 MR. DEEDS
8 9 MORNINGS

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 BALLISTIC ECKS VS. SEVER
2 MASIKIP MAINIT ...
3 MR. DEEDS
4 TUXEDO
5 BESTMAN
6 9 MORNINGS

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 THE ROOKIE
2 SIMONE
3 9 MORNINGS
4 ENOUGH
5 PROSTI
6 TUXEDO

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1 THE ROOKIE
2 9 MORNINGS
3 ENOUGH
4 PROSTI
5 VOODOO
6 TUXEDO

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Caldwell, Perry, Wilson at Araneta tomorrow night

CROSSOVER presents jazz men Bobby Caldwell and Phil Perry, with ex-Seawind vocalist Pauline Wilson as special guest, in a one-of-a-kind concert tomorrow at 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

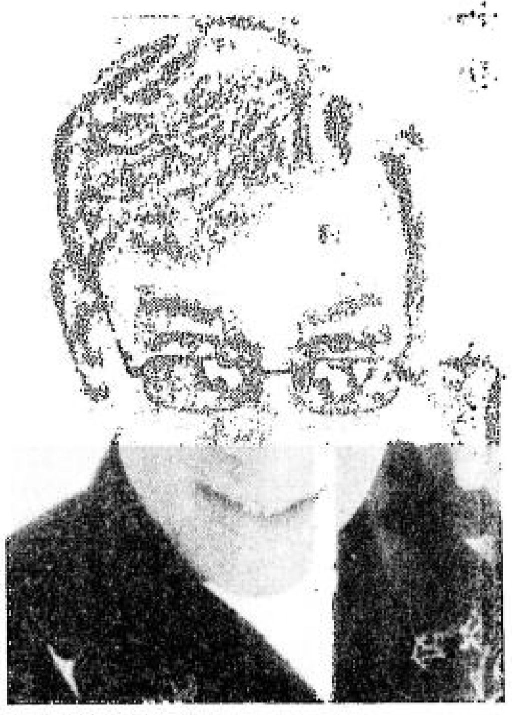
Couples are bound to fall in love again to the tune of heart-tugging love songs, including Caldwell's "What You Won't Do for Love," "Heart of Mine," "Next Time I Fall," "Real Thing," and "Don't Ask My Neighbor," Perry's "Born to Love You," "After the Love Has Gone," "Is It You," "One Heart, One Love," "Livin' for the Love of You," and Wilson's Seawind numbers such as "Follow Your Road," "He Loves You," "Still in Love," "Two of Us" and "Stay."

Caldwell, a veteran of the '70s fusion genre, has been expanding his fan base with his foray into the big band scene.

Perry did backup vocals for Lee Ritenour, Quincy Jones and Sergio Mendez before getting his big break as a solo artist.

For tickets, call SM Ticknetnet (911-5555), Araneta Ticketron, Crossover (731-1667 or 0917-832-1052). For 24-hour ticket reservation and delivery, call 844-2947 or 844-8159.

PHILIP Perry


BOBBY Caldwell

Clark Kent as a lonely teenager

From page A27

launching of the world's biggest shoe. A representative from the Guinness Book of Records will be on hand to witness the unveiling. Special guests are President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, DOT Sec. Richard Gordon, and the Ambassador to the Philippines from Great Britain, Germany and Italy.

Art contest

The winner and some other entries to the 35th Shell National Students Art Competition are currently being exhibited (until Nov. 3) at the Fourth Floor Bridgeway of SM Megamall.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MAPUPULANG ROSAS / KILLING ME SOFTLY
ODEON	ECK AND SAVER
ODEON-2	KARTA ALAS / NAKED NIGHTS
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HIGH CRIME / JUST VISITING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LOLLIPOP
REMAR	LOLLIPOP
REMAR-2	HUBAD NA MULTO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	9 MORNINGS
B	MASIKIPT AT MAINIT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BLOOD WORK
CINEMA-2	MR DEEDS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	FRAILTY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOUCH
CINEMA-6	BLODY RELATIONSHIP
CINEMA-7	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-8	'O
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MR DEEDS
CINEMA-12	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA-14	PARAISONG PARASUKAT
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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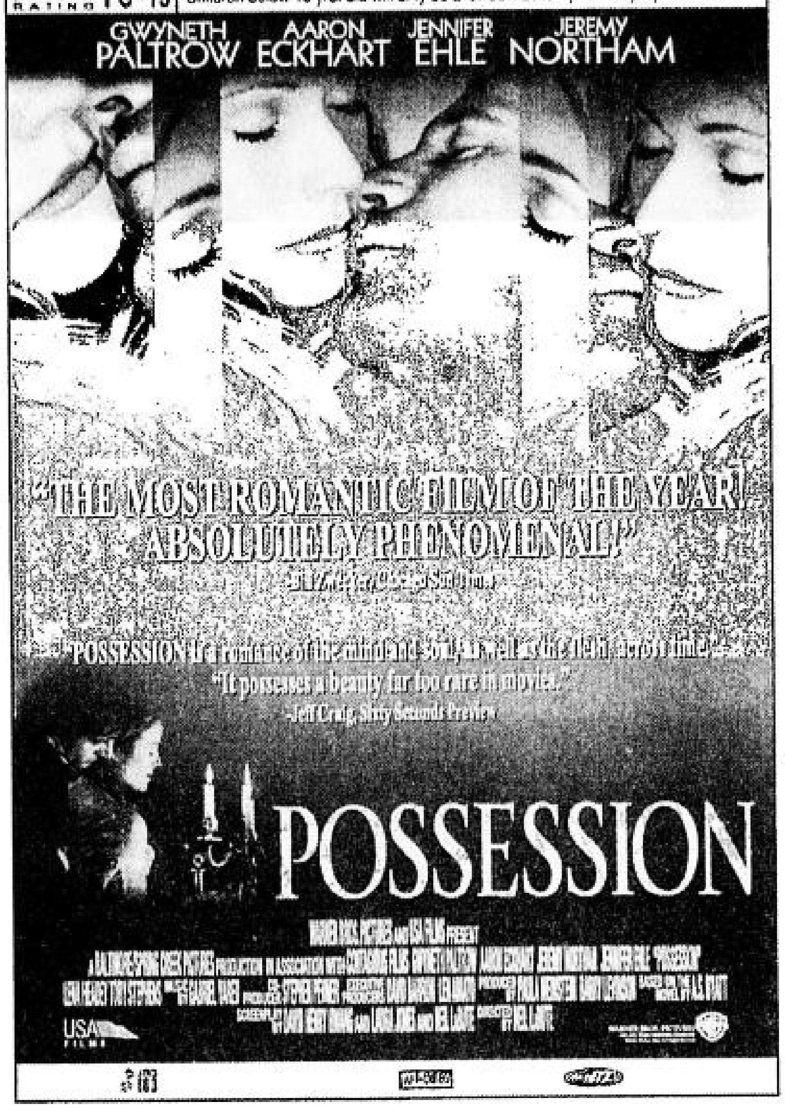
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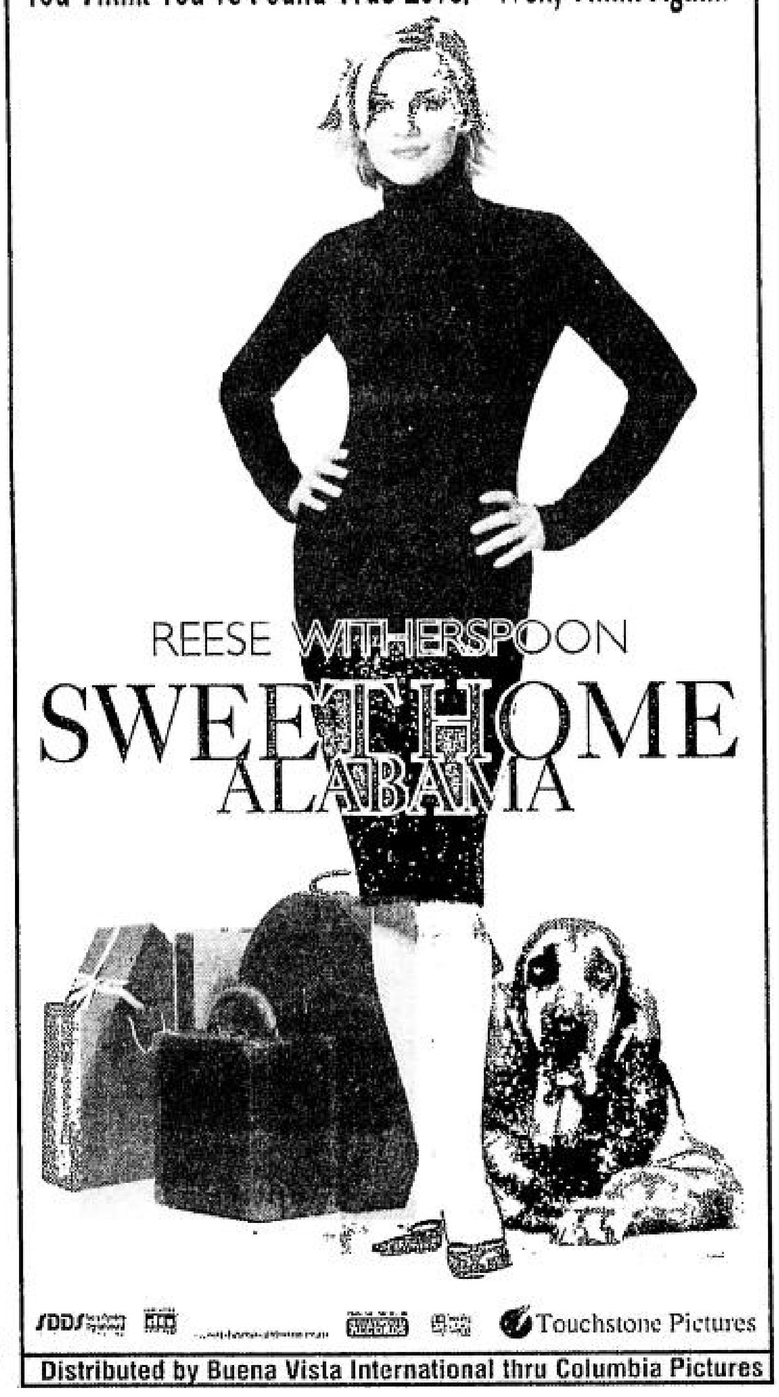
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BALLISTIC P13 12:50,3:00,5:10, 7:20,9:30	TUXEDO P13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	BALLISTIC P13 11:40,1:50,4:00, 6:10,8:20,10:30

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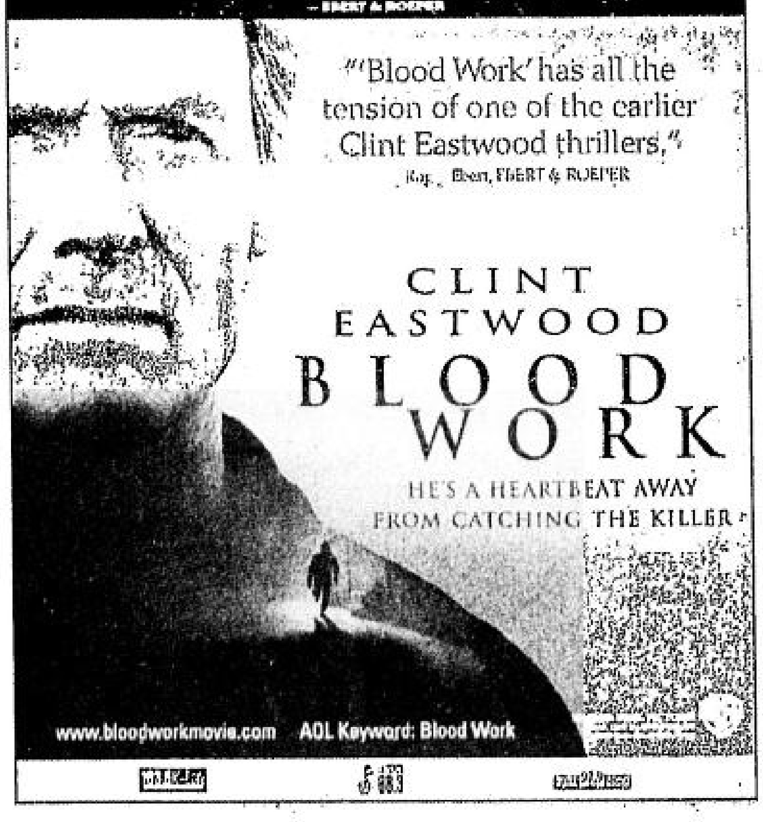
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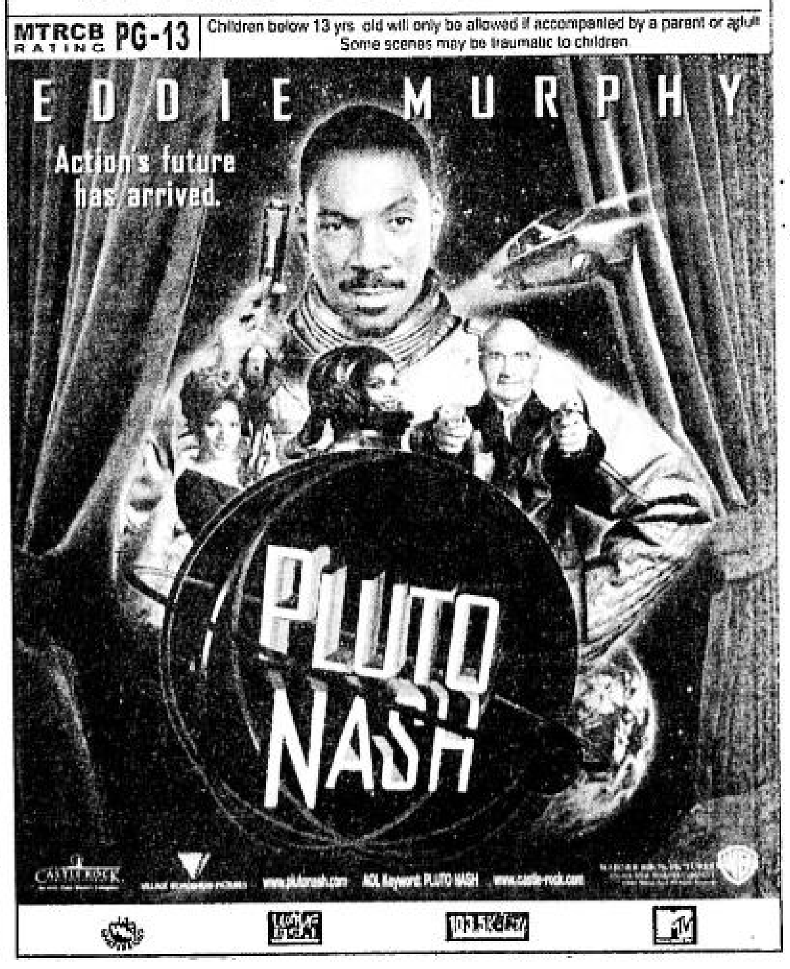
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Autumn in New York

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

NEW YORK CITY—I'm no **Winona Ryder** and I don't have a **Richard Gere.** But being in this city at this time of the year inevitably makes me think of "Autumn in New York," that romantic tear-jerker which I watched repeatedly on cable TV and which made my lachrymal glands work overtime.

The nippy autumn air makes it a perfect time to be here. Woe for me, though, for not having a significant other to travel with me. But I'm not sulking.

I've seen New York in the dead of winter. I didn't like having to wear a shirt, sweater and trench coat over my thermal underwear. I also hated removing my gloves or mufflers every time I shopped. I love Central Park, however, in winter time.

I've also seen New York in summer and the sweltering heat didn't suit me. Walking down Broadway or Fifth Avenue could be exhausting even when you're in shorts, tees and rubber shoes.

But New York is different in autumn, when the city is at its most beautiful. The chilly weather and the overcast skies can't keep me in my hotel room. I have to enjoy the city.

Last Monday, Columbus Day, I witnessed the colorful pageantry and heard the music of the marching bands in the Columbus Day parade on Fifth Avenue, where "Christopher Columbus" sailed through midtown Manhattan on the ship Santa Maria.

It was the first parade in 58 years that was not attended by the New York City mayor, according to NBC News. Mayor **Michael Bloomberg** snubbed the event and chose to dine instead with the cast of TV's "The Sopranos," led by **Lorraine Bracco,** in a restaurant in the Bronx.

AUTUMN/A29

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Oil companies poise new price hikes

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CALTEX (Philippines) Inc. yesterday said a second round of oil price increases for this month was expected "very soon" as local prices continued to lag behind international prices by as much as P2 per liter.

Company officials said in a statement that since January, prices of unleaded gasoline in the country had gone up by P2.10 per liter while international prices went up by an equivalent of P3.50, which translated to a difference of P1.40 per liter.

Also, they said current international diesel prices have reached their highest levels in two years.

In a telephone interview, a Caltex official said the disparity between international and local prices of diesel was even wider at P2 per liter.

"Global diesel prices have gone up by P3.90 while local prices increased by only P1.90," the source said.

Meanwhile, the company statement said international contract prices of liquefied petroleum gas went up by at least P5 per kilo since March.

On the other hand, local LPG prices were adjusted by only about P3 per kilo.

"The upward trend of international crude and finished prices, as observed these past few months and driven primarily by the ongoing Middle East tension, has continued unabated," the official said.

They added that world crude prices have increased by $3 to $6 per barrel since August.

Factors in the local market such as the deteriorating foreign exchange rate as well as the intense competition add to the pricing pressure, the officials noted.

The peso broke the P53 to the dollar level early this week, its lowest for the year.

Other regional markets have been reacting to these pressures by moving local prices in line with global price changes, they said.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. said price indicators point to another round of price increases, but that the firm was still monitoring these factors.

OIL/ B6

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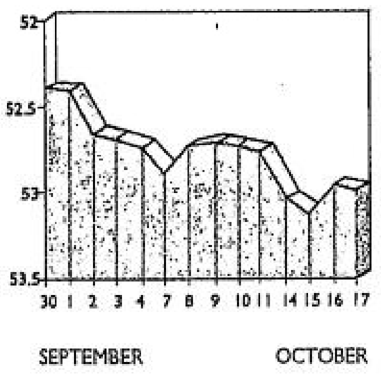


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 52.980= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 17, 2002

¥ 124.38= $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 17, 2002

GOLD: $313.-313.50

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 17, 2002

Shares fall 0.8%

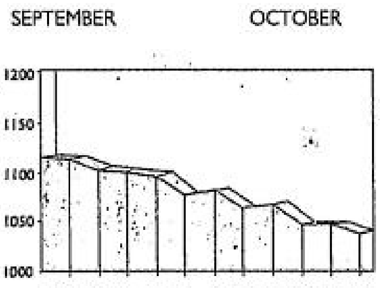
SHARE prices fell 0.8 percent yesterday as investors dumped blue chips, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 8.59 points to 1,039.58.

"This is more emotion-driven trade, with investors fearing the market downturn will continue because of all the uncertainties," said Macky Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

Roberto Cano of BPI Securities said: "The negative performance of Wall Street also dampened market sentiment." The Philippines has been affected by the deadly bomb blasts in Bali, Indonesia, that killed at least 180 people.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Volume turnover fell to 99.23 million shares while value rose to P316.52 million from 131.99 million shares worth P275.9 million on Wednesday. *AFP*

Investment banker joins Finance

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has attracted another investment banker to the low-paying fold of the government, appointing Eric Recto as finance undersecretary in charge of the government's aggressive privatization program starting next year.

Before taking his oath as the fifth finance undersecretary Wednesday night, Recto was senior vice president and chief finance officer of Alaska Milk Corp.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he might even ask Recto to take his place and chair the Privatization Council, the Cabinet-level group that determines privatization policies and direction.

Treasury says gov't capable of funding P190-B budget deficit

By Clarissa S. Batino

NATIONAL Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said the government's borrowing program could cover a 2002 budget deficit of as much as P190 billion.

This was in line with market expectations that the deficit this year would go way beyond the original target of P130 billion.

Two weeks ago, Edeza said the government could cover a budget deficit of up to P185 billion for 2002.

Edeza said it would also help if the Bureau of Internal Revenue, in particular, would be able to meet its collection targets for the remainder of the year.

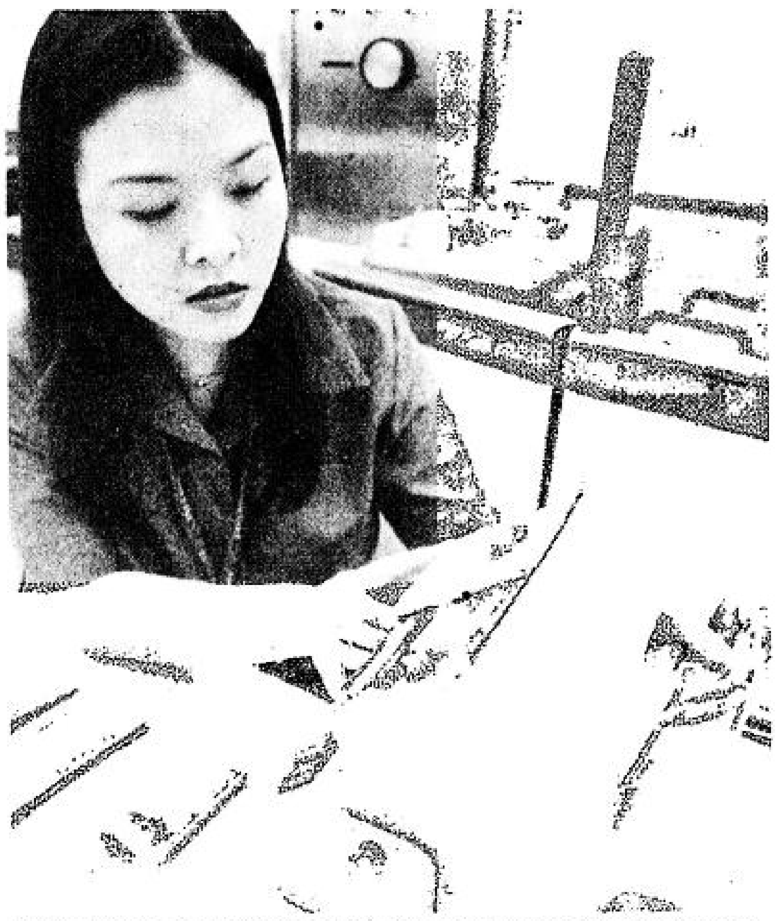
Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said the other day that the bureau had collected P32.18 billion in September, slightly more than the revised target for the month.

The government would announce the nine-month deficit figure on Monday and the gap is expected to have widened to between P155 billion and P160 billion as of September from P144 billion in August.

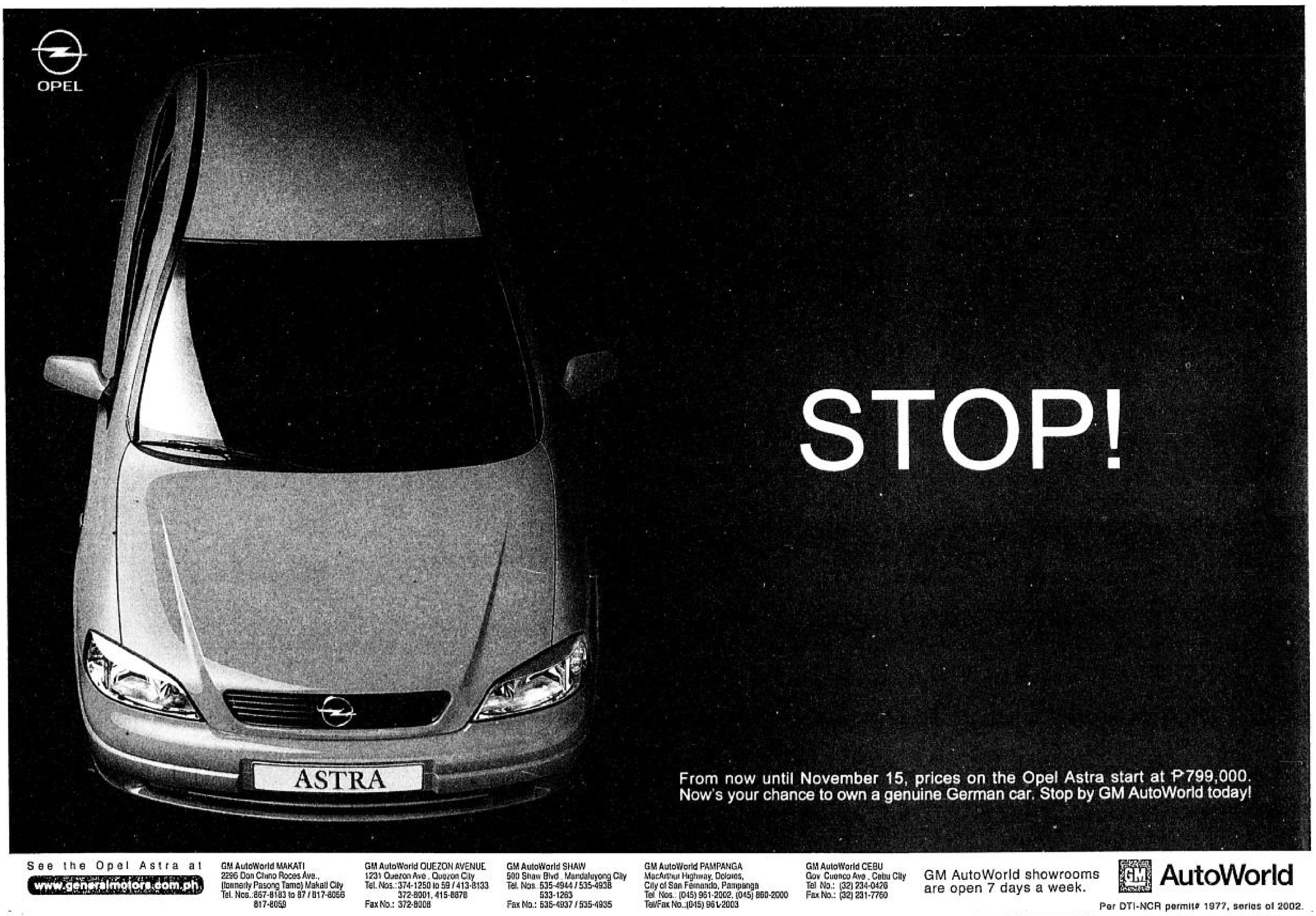
Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin told lawmakers the other day that the P130-billion original deficit target this year was already unattainable.

She said the government was concentrating on keeping the deficit this year to a number equivalent to 4 percent of gross domestic product or about P160 billion.

Seasonally, an INQUIRER source said that interest payments swell during September, but that the government was hoping the amount would taper down to a more tolerable level during the fourth quarter.



A TELLER checks P500 bills and $100 notes at a local bank. The peso recovered on Oct. 16 to close at 52.96 to the dollar following security concerns from the deadly attack on Bali drove the peso to a low of 53.03 to $1 on Oct. 15, its lowest intraday level since August 2001. AFP



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- Benito Dellosa, *Laguna*

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Above all

DEATH BY SLOW BOILING

THROW a frog into boiling water and it jumps out saving its life; gently bring it to the boil, and the frog, never noticing the incremental increases in heat, allows itself to be cooked.

Is the downstream petrochemical industry a frog in a pot in the Philippine Government's kitchen?

The plan by government to maintain high tariffs on plastic resin by delaying programmed tariff reduction under ASEAN-CEPT is seriously compromising the competitiveness of the downstream industries.

To: H.E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

Dear Madam President:

In 1998, the government increased the tariff on plastic resin to 15% and maintained the same up to the present to protect midstream industries and allegedly pave way to the establishment of the upstream and fully integrated petrochemical industry.

In the meantime, thousands of finished products made of plastic or with plastic material as a substantial component currently has a tariff rate or will have a tariff rate of 0% to 5% by the year 2003.

This tariff distortion has seriously compromised the competitiveness of the downstream industries as can be seen when some of its major customers (e.g. UNILEVER, JOHNSON & JOHNSON, COLGATE PALMOLIVE, PROCTER & GAMBLE) have started to move their production operations elsewhere in Asia.

As a consequence too, imported finished products made of plastics or with plastic materials are flooding the market since they are taxed at a lower rate of 0% to 5%.

Madam President, we urge you to save the downstream industry, which employs a far greater number of workers (estimated at 500,000). We appeal for the immediate lowering of tariffs of plastic resin to 5% and for grades not produced locally to 0%.

PHILIPPINE PLASTIC INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

PACKAGING INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES

CONSUMERS UNION OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE CONSUMERS WATCH FOUNDATION (BANTAY MAMAMAYAN)

PLASTIC WEAVERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

ASSOCIATION OF FLEXIBLES PACKAGING MANUFACTURERS OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE FOOD PROCESSORS AND EXPORTERS ORGANIZATION, INC.

The downstream plastic and packaging industry is a labor-intensive sector employing more than 500,000 workers.

Partial List of Downstream Companies

[illegible]

ADVT.

Taiwanese investments in RP seen to increase

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday expressed confidence that Taiwanese investments into the Philippines would increase as Taiwanese businessmen heed their government's "Go South" strategy to diversify their investment portfolio, which is currently concentrated in Mainland China.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said Taiwan's "Go South" policy would enable the country to absorb the outward migration of factories from Taiwan due to the rising cost of labor and land. "We are targeting industries that are no longer competitive by remaining in Taiwan. We are interested in their industrial products, semiconductors, electronics, automotive parts and chemicals."

Roxas yesterday met with a delegation of Taiwanese businessmen led by billionaire Jeffrey Koo which was on an Asean swing looking into opportunities in the region in line with the "Go South" strategy. The Philippines was the first stop in the investment mission's schedule.

Roxas said Taiwanese businessmen were keen on the Philippines not only because it was the nearest Asean country to Taipei but also because of the Filipinos' fluency in English and the local Chinese community's use of Fookien which was used by Taiwanese.

Roxas said a surge in Taiwanese investments in the country would boost the country's trade with Taiwan which reached approximately $4.5 billion last year. "The ingredients of technology and capital that Taiwan has in abundance will also fortify or strengthen our industrial base," Roxas said.

Roxas said the Philippines should take advantage of this opportunity by ensuring a hospitable economic environment for the Taiwanese and address their concern on personal security, rising labor activism and surging utility costs.

eTelecare to invest $45M in RP

By Abigail L. Ho

CALL center eTelecare International will invest another $24 million to $45 million in the next 2 to 3 years for the establishment of three more call centers in the country on top of the two others it already has.

In a news briefing yesterday, eTelecare president Jim Franke said the call center had grown 48-fold—in terms of revenues, clients and call center agents—since it started operating in the country in September 2000.

eTelecare now has 14 corporate clients, 1,500 employees and a monthly revenue growth rate of 12 to 15 percent for the past 12 months. Its year-to-date revenue was estimated at around $25 million, Franke said.

With its success in the Philippines, he said the country evidently remained the top choice for outsourcing merchant call center services.

In fact, Global Asset Holdings Inc. managing director Todd Fisch said 25 percent of the company's business came from eTelecare, out of 21 other call centers it was maintaining all over the world.

"The Philippines is the best kept secret in American telemarketing," he said.

Because of these, eTelecare vice president for operations Benedict Hernandez projected a threefold or fourfold growth for the entire local call center industry by the end of this year.

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
VARIABLE LIFE	Current Week October 15, 2002	Last Week October 8, 2002
Prulink Bond Fund	1.01905	1.02301
Prulink Managed Fund	1.00087	1.00902

* Note: PRULINK Funds were launched last September 18, 2002

Gov't paid P520M in fees for bond issues since January

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has so far paid some P520 million in underwriting fees for foreign borrowings contracted since January this year.

Finance officials, however, said the amount should not be taken as cost for this year, alone. They said the amount should be spread over five to seven years, or only P70 million per year, since the bonds issued since January were maturing in five to seven years.

The fees were paid mostly to foreign groups that handled the country's borrowings this year such as Credit Suisse First Boston and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter (for the $750-million, 15-year global bond issue last January) and the group of JP Morgan Chase, HSBC, and Deutsche Bank (for the $1-billion, seven-year global bond issue reopened by JP Morgan in May).

Last September, ING Bank N.V. handled another $300- million, five-year euro bond issue.

Editha Tan, director of the finance department's international finance group said that fees on Philippine bond issues were considered reasonable and might even be lower than those paid by other countries.

The 15-year bond float with a 10-year put option commanded an underwriting fee of 60 basis points or. about $4.5 million while the seven-year global bond sale fetched a fee of 32 basis points. The follow-up on the seven-year bonds was only priced at 13 basis points, noted Tan.

The most recent five-year bond issue was charged a fee of 37.5 basis points.

"The fees we pay now are cheap compared to the past when generally, borrowing costs were more expensive. Also, since we are active in the market, we get goodwill and relatively better rates compared to others," said Tan.

Underwriters usually design the structure of the bond or the loan and lead efforts to raise the money for the issuer.

She pointed out that in 1999, when the government issued a $500-million, nine-year bonds, the underwriters charged a fee of 88 basis points.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Equitable NPL ratio as of Sept. at 18.43%

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's third largest bank, said its non-performing loans (NPL) ratio for the parent entity stood at 18.43 percent as of Sept. 20, slightly lower than the ratio of 18.44 percent as of June 18.

The amount of non-performing loans stood at P26.64 billion as of Sept. 20.

The banking industry's bad loans ratio was at 17.58 percent of all loans as of end-August, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Reuters

BPI's bad debts down

BANK of the Philippine Islands, the country's second-largest by assets, reported a bad loans ratio of 10.95 percent of total loan portfolio as of Sept. 20.

At the end of June, the bank posted a non-performing loans ratio of 12.06 percent of all loans. BPI stock was unchanged at P41.5 Wednesday.

Reuters

BDO NPLs at P5.14B

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank, one of the Philippines' top 10 private banks, said its non-performing loans (NPLs) ratio for the parent entity stood at 8.75 percent as of Sept. 20.

In a statement of conditions, Banco de Oro said its total NPLs for the period stood at P5.14 billion. No comparative figures were given.

Reuters

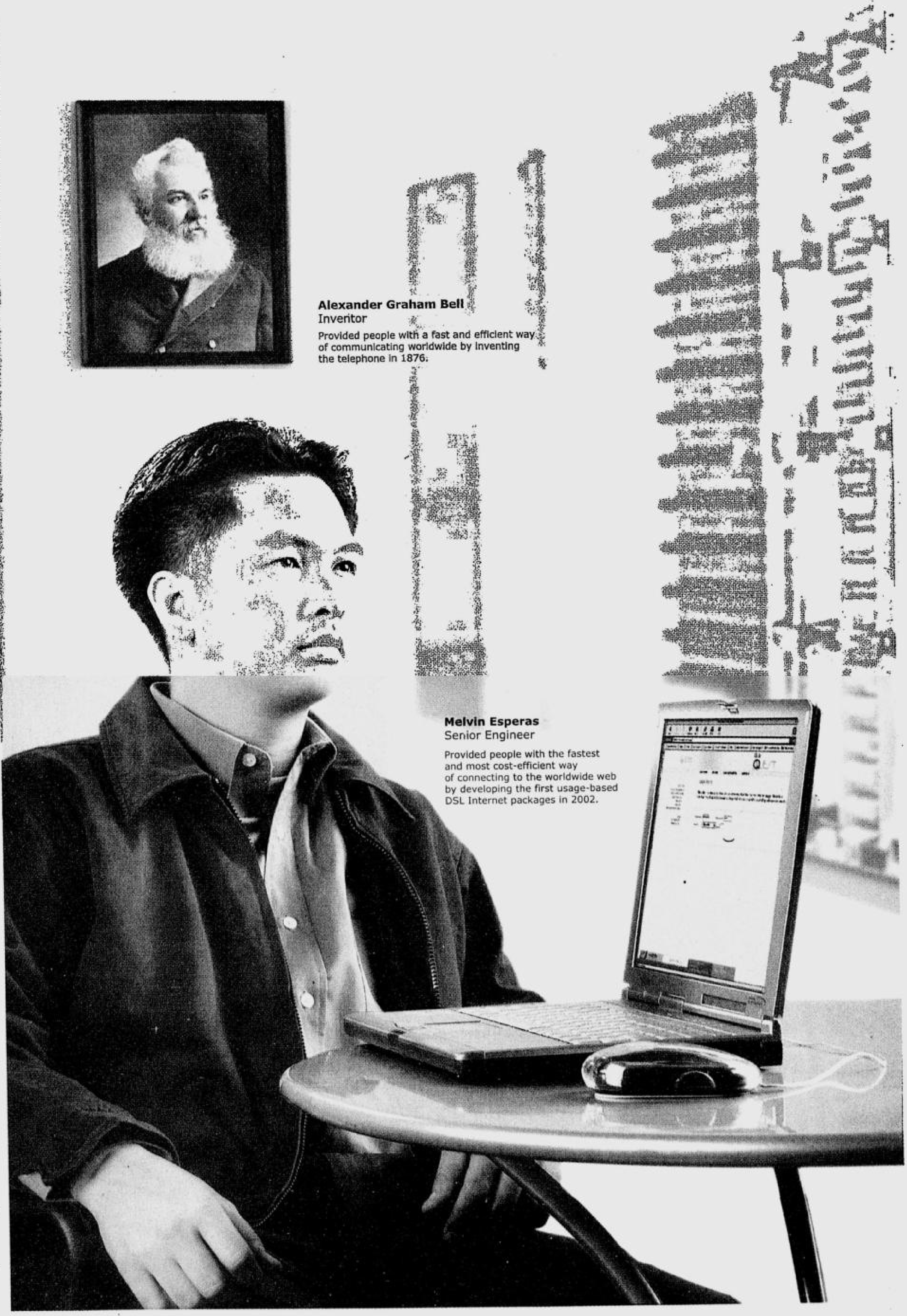
UBP's NPL ratio at 12.4%

UNION Bank of the Philippines posted non-performing loans (NPL) ratio of 12.4 percent of total loan portfolio as of Sept. 20.

In a statement of financial conditions, the universal bank said its NPLs amounted to P3.513 billion.

The average NPL ratio for the commercial banking sector stood at 17.58 percent at the end of August this year.

Reuters



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GLOBE TELECOM

FROM P5.3B TO P1.5B

PNB trims 9-month net loss

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE National Bank, one of the country's largest banks, posted a net loss of P1.5 billion in the first nine months of this year, putting it on track to register a much lower full-year loss than expected.

The P1.5 billion 9-month net loss was also much better than the P5.3-billion loss recorded in the same period last year.

PNB president Lorenzo Tan said the better-than-expected net loss was due mainly to the P1 billion in additional income generated partly from its remittance business.

"In some areas we made money, in some areas we saved money," Tan said.

"It gives us cushion to make more reserves," he added.

PNB has projected a P2.9-billion loss this year.

Based on the surprisingly better performance in the first six months of 2002, Tan had earlier forecast that PNB would beat its full-year loss easily.

He cited the fact that the bank was able to bring down its cost of money, adjust fees and tap more income from remittances and loans.

The 40-year-old PNB president has a "good bank, bad bank" strategy to bring PNB back to profitability by 2005.

The strategy involves disposing of the bank's bad assets or eking out returns from large idle assets, increasing revenue from remittances and raising margins through technology and lower cost of money.

Tan disclosed that PNB has sold more than P1.5 billion in idle assets consisting mainly of residential units.

Last year, PNB posted a net loss of P4.1 billion and similar substantial losses in previous years.

PNB's major shareholders are the Lucio Tan group and the government, each controlling 45 percent of the bank. Tan and the government last May signed a rehabilitation agreement to settle P25 billion in outstanding loans to the BSP and state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Tan had said the bank would strive to bring down its nonperforming loan ratio to 39 percent by year-end although the figure was currently still at around 50 percent.

The bank also plans to put up more remittance centers overseas to boost revenue generated from the millions of Filipinos working abroad.

The government and Tan had promised to jointly dispose of their holdings once the bank has returned to profitability.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, October 17, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18	17.75	18	55,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	42	41.5	41.5	148,600
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	700
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27	27	27	43,900
First E-Bank Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	32.5	31.5	31.5	82,600
Philippine National Bank	26	26	25	25	27,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	26,500
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	17.75	18	17.75	18	16,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1150	1155	1150	1155	600
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	40,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	915	920	915	920	3,170
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	8,500
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	150,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	417.5	417.5	405	410	49,250
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	4,600,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	4,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	900,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.55	3.8	3.55	3.75	85,000
Piltel	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	60,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	240	240	231	235	112,400
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	25,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16	16	15.5	15.5	24,200
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	23.5	21.25	21.25	1,330,000
Petron Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	341,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	195,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	86,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	218,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	536,800
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.75	110,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	56	54	55.5	1,787,300
San Miguel Corp. B	59	60	58.5	59.5	1,382,600
Universal Robina Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	10,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	400,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.39	0.36	0.38	80,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.8	575,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.24	2.32	27,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11	11	11	1,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.55	2.55	2.55	2.55	5,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	850,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.185	0.185	3,050,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	1,100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	100,600
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.36	1,283,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	50,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	670,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	2,000,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	500,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	1,650,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.2	1.2	1.04	1.04	20,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	90,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	30,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	300,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	70,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	430,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.75	26,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	13,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10	10	10	10	15,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5	5	5	1,488,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	770,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	50,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	3,730,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	230,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	2,242,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Omico Corp.	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	5,000,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	16,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	7,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	60,000

DISCLOSURES

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. advised that 1,436 common shares have been availed of and fully paid for under its tandem stock purchase and option plan. This brings the number of common shares listed under the said plan to a total of 11,078,904.

* * *

NEXTSTAGE Inc. said it has not appointed a replacement for Security Bank and Trust Co. as stock transfer agent. The matter will be taken up at the next board meeting and shall advise the Exchange accordingly.

* * *

KEEPEL Philippines Marine Inc. confirmed it has received a letter from Security Bank and Trust Co. advising it that the bank is terminating the stock transfer agency agreement effective Dec. 1. It is presently in the process of selecting a new stock transfer agent to replace Security Bank.

* * *

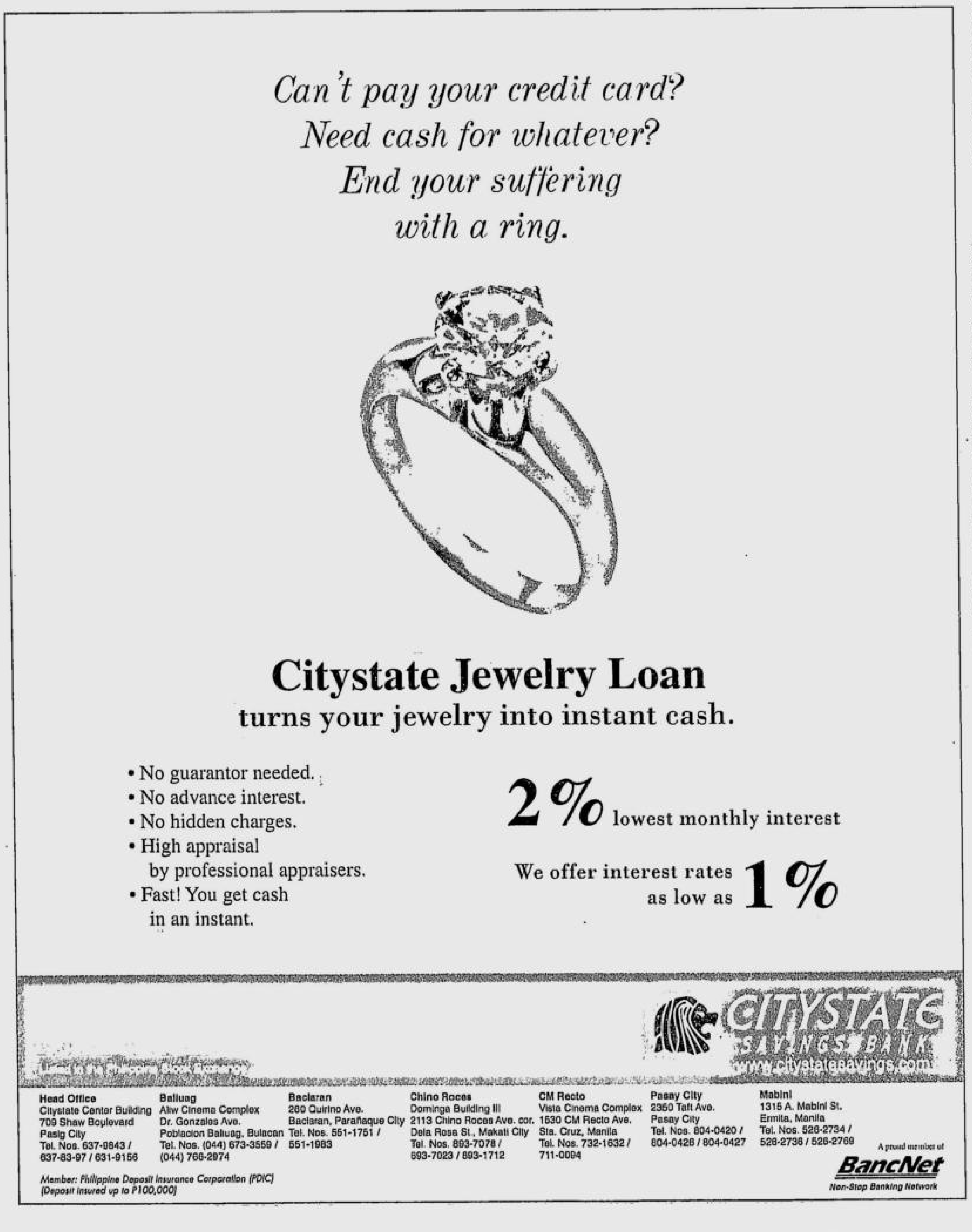
IN RESPONSE to the Exchange's request for an explanation of the non-holding of its annual stockholders' meeting, Primetown Property Group Inc. said it has been under dire distress for the past four years. The last meeting was held on May 19, 1997. Moreso, there was feedback that a quorum would not be met since the stockholders' interests have waned.

* * *

EVER-Gotesco Resources Holdings Inc. received a letter from Security Bank and Trust Co. that the bank is phasing out its transfer agency services starting Dec. 3. It has likewise received several proposals for said services and is in the process of reviewing them. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Oct. 17, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	**Dollar**	**1.018641**	**1.000000**	**53.008000**
Japan	**Yen**	**0.008186**	**0.008036**	**0.426000**
United Kingdom	**Pound**	**1.583274**	**1.554300**	**82.390300**
Hongkong	**Dollar**	**0.130610**	**0.128220**	**6.796700**
Switzerland	Franc	0.681913	0.669434	35.485400
Canada	Dollar	0.643244	0.631473	33.473100
Singapore	Dollar	0.569073	0.558659	29.613400
Australia	Dollar	0.558834	0.548607	29.080600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.702037	2.652590	140.608500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271616	0.266645	14.134300
Brunei	Dollar	0.567488	0.557103	29.530900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000109	0.005800
Thailand	Baht	0.023267	0.022841	1.210800
UAE	Dirham	0.277347	0.272272	14.432600
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.981700	52.038000
ArgentinaPeso	0.282956	0.277778	14.724500	
Brazil	REAL	0.264582	0.259740	13.768300
Denmark	Kroner	0.134597	0.132134	7.004200
India	Rupee	0.021086	0.020700	1.097300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268099	0.263193	13.951300
Mexico	New Peso	0.101418	0.099562	5.277600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.489661	0.480700	25.480900
Norway	Kroner	0.135860	0.133374	7.069900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017280	0.016964	0.899200
South Africa	Rand	0.097937	0.096145	5.096500
Korea	Won	0.000823	0.000808	0.042800
Sweden	Kroner	0.110063	0.108049	5.727500
Syria	Pound	0.023046	0.022624	1.199300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029221	0.028686	1.520600
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000727	0.000714	0.037800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Gov't finalizes changes in vehicle taxes

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry and Department of Finance have drafted a bill proposing sweeping changes in the country's vehicle tax and used import policy aimed at making bantam cars cheaper while limiting the second-hand imports from Subic to delivery trucks or cargo vans.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the key reform introduced in the bill was the rationalization of the excise tax system by shifting the tax basis from engine to price and widening the definition of automobile to include AUVs, sport utility vehicles, pickups and vans.

These vehicles were previously tax-exempt under the 10-seater rule. Since they accounted for 70 percent of all vehicles sold in the country, most of the industry's tax burden has been shouldered by passenger cars.

The new tax schedule reflects the government aim of reducing the tax burden on passenger cars that are slapped a minimum of 15 percent at present. Vehicles worth P500,000 and below would be slapped a token 3-percent tax of the net manufacturer's price; vehicles worth between P501,000 and P1 million would be charged P15,000 in taxes plus 15 percent of its value in excess of P500,000; vehicles worth between P1.001 million and P2 million would be taxed P90,000 plus 30 percent of the value in excess of P1 million; and a vehicle worth over P2 million would be slapped with a P390,000 tax plus 100 percent of value in excess of P2 million.

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Oil companies poise new round of price increases this month

From page B1

Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell general manager for external affairs, said average crude prices in October were so far 31 cents higher than the September average of $26.80 per barrel.

Kanapi said that this, combined with the peso breaching the 53:$1 level, was cause for a new round of price increases.

"But we have have not decided to do anything about this," he said.

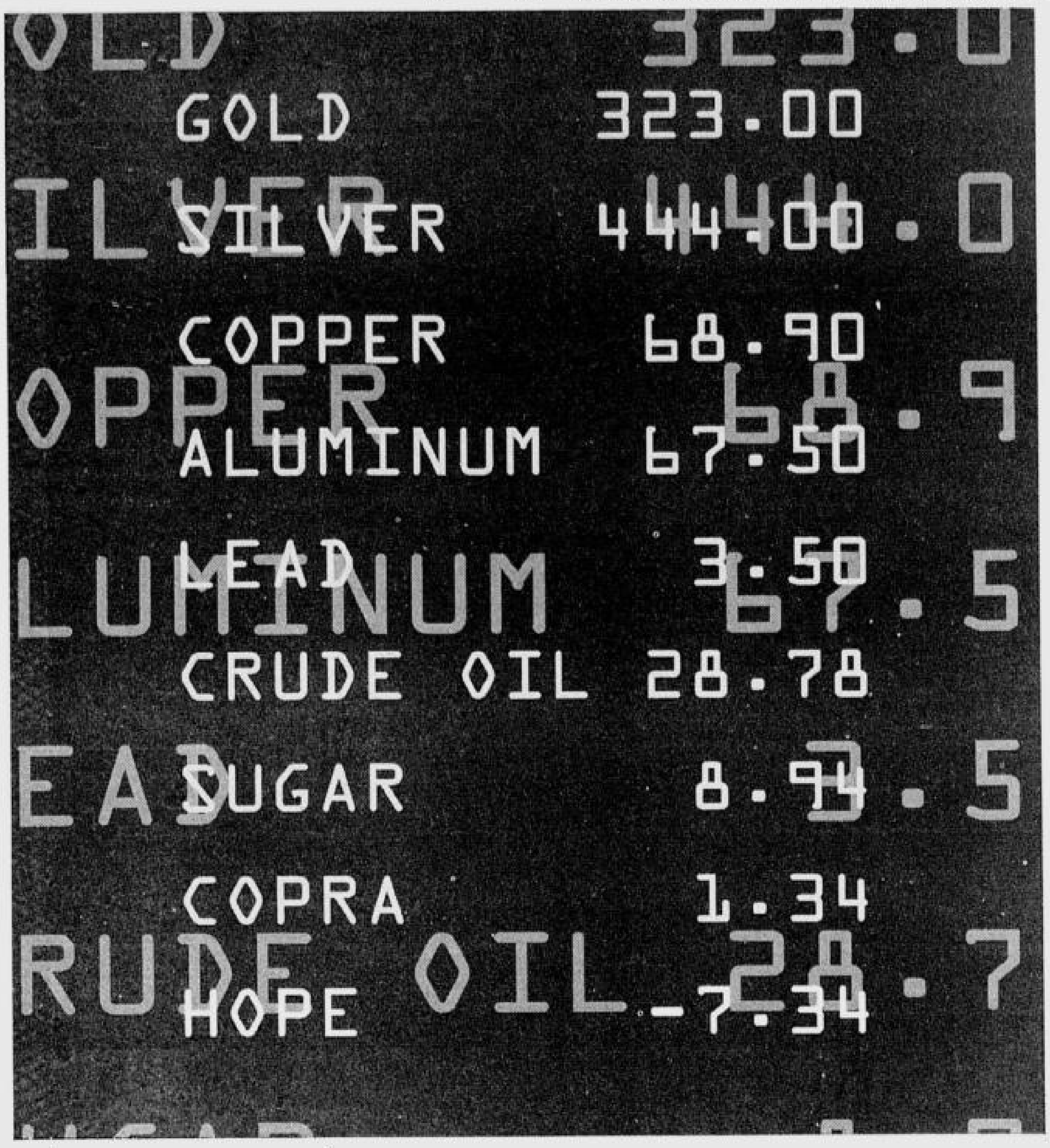
Pilipinas Shell led this month's first round of increases on Oct. 4, with gasoline and kerosene prices going up by 50 centavos per liter and those of diesel by 30 centavos.

Fernando Martinez, chair of new entrant Eastern Petroleum Corp., said that movements in October should be reflected in pump prices next month.

"However, we still have under recoveries of about 40 centavos for gasoline and 60 centavos for diesel," Martinez said.

He explained that local prices of both products should have gone up by 90 centavos per liter to meet price movements in the international market.

"A second round of price hikes of about 40 centavos per liter is expected this month," Martinez said. "The only question is how much more or how much less our major competitors would want to absorb (as under-recoveries)."



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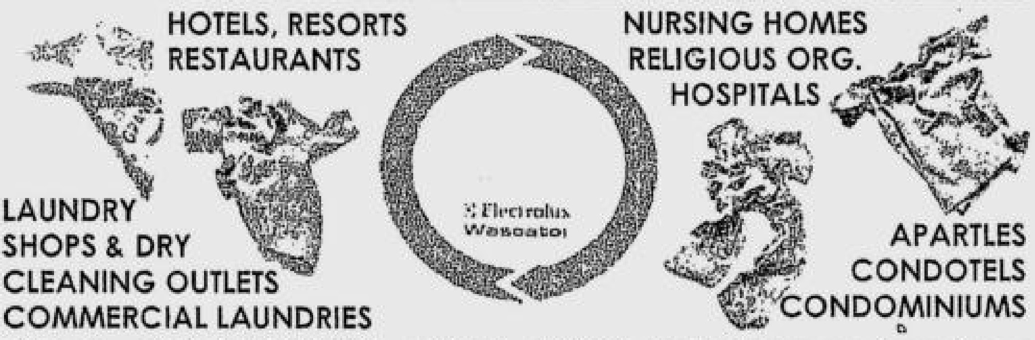

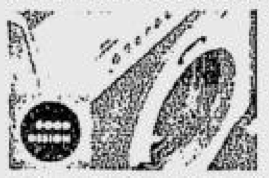

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Re: FORMAL NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT AN UPWARD ADJUSTMENT OF DEREGULATED RATES PURSUANT TO MARINA MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 153 SERIES OF 1999.

WILLIAM GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC.,
Applicant.

CASE No.

x---x

FORMAL NOTICE

COMES NOW the applicant William Gothong & Aboitiz Inc., by counsel, and to this Honorable Authority most respectfully states:

1. That it is a corporation duly authorized and existing in accordance with Philippine laws, with principal office at 12th Floor Time Plaza Office Tower, cor. U.N. & Taft Avenues, Manila, and engaged in inter-island shipping

2. That applicant is the lawful and absolute owner and operator of the following passenger-cargo vessels duly organized to operate in the routes set forth in the listing Annex "A" hereof in accordance with their respective Certificates of Public Convenience (CPC) or Provisional Authority (PA) or Special Permit (SP) duly issued by this Honorable Authority, to wit:

List of Passenger Vessels (their routes shown in Annex A):

1. Superferry 1
2. Superferry 2
3. Superferry 5
4. Superferry 8
5. Superferry 9
6. Superferry 12
7. Superferry 14
8. Our Lady of Sacred Heart
9. Our Lady of Lipa
10. Our Lady of Medjugorje

3. That the applicant proposes an upward adjustment in its freight rates in accordance with the Schedule set forth in Annex "B" hereof, effective fifteen (15) days after the publication of this FORMAL NOTICE.

4. That applicant has been constrained to increase its freight fares and file this "Formal Notice" for the following reasons:

(a) Increase in insurance premiums for the year 2002;

(b) Increment in labor cost for the years 2001 and 2002;

(c) Increases in port usage fees;

5. That applicant has not availed of any upward adjustment of its freight rates for at least three (3) months;

6. That applicant is ready, able and willing to comply with all pertinent laws, such as but not limited to, the Public Service Act, as amended, E.O. No. 213, the regulations of this Honorable Authority including Section VIII.2, paragraphs (a) to (f) of MARINA Memorandum Circular No. 153; applicant shall submit proof of compliance with said M.C. within five (5) days from publication hereof;

7. That applicant is financially capable to operate and maintain the proposed service which, it is humbly submitted, will enhance much improved shipping services while ensuring the viability of the business.

WHEREFORE, it is most respectfully prayed of this Honorable Authority, to **NOTE** this **FORMAL NOTICE** of an upward adjustment as applicant's compliance with Section VIII, paragraph (e) of MC 153. Other just and equitable reliefs are likewise prayed for.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

Makati City for Manila: 13 September 2002.

ARTHUR D. LIM LAW OFFICE
Counsel for WG&A.
Units 2201-2204, 22nd Floor
Citybird Pasong Tamo Tower,
2210 Pasong Tamo Street
Makati City, Metro Manila

By,

ARTHUR D. LIM
PTR No. 6742011/1.08.02/Makati
IBP No. 01609/Zambasulta,

VICTOR O. CONCEPCION
PTR #6742009/1.08.02/Makati
IBP#548642/1.08.02/La Union

VERIFICATION

I, **MIGUEL A. CAMAHORT**, after being sworn in accordance with law depose and state that:

1. I am the Senior Vice President & COO-Freight Division of WG&A, Inc., applicant in the above-entitled case/petition.

2. I have caused to be prepared the foregoing "Formal Notice" which I have read and hereby certify that the allegations of facts therein stated are true and correct of my own knowledge and belief and based on the records available to the company.

3. I hereby certify that Applicant has not filed any "Formal Notice" for an upward adjustment for deregulated freight rates, before any court, tribunal or any other quasi-judicial agency; that no such other Notice for an upward adjustment for deregulated freight rates is pending therein; that if the company should learn of the pendency of any such other similar petition and/or notice, I shall inform the Honorable Authority within five (5) days from knowledge thereof.

MIGUEL A. CAMAHORT
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, this OCT 15 2002 day of September 2002 affiant exhibiting to me his Community Tax Certificate No. 14997057 issued on January 7, 2002 at Parañaque City.

Doc No. 245
Page No. 4
Book No. I
Series of 2002.

VICTOR C.
NOTARY PUBLIC
Until December 31, 2003
PTR # [illegible]
Makati City, [illegible]

WILLIAM, GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC. **ANNEX "A"**

1. SuperFerry 1 – Provisional Authority
Manila-Iloilo-Gen. Santos-Davao-Gen. Santos-Iloilo-Manila
Manila-Surigao-Nasipit-Surigao-Cebu-Manila
Manila-Zamboanga-Gen. Santos-Davao-Gen. Santos-Zamboanga-Manila
Manila-Iloilo-Iligan-Ozamis-Iligan-Bacolod-Manila

2. SuperFerry 2 – Provisional Authority
Manila-Bacolod-Iligan-Ozamis-Iligan-Manila
Manila-Iloilo-Iligan-Ozamis-Iligan-Bacolod-Manila
Manila-Cebu-Surigao-Nasipit-Surigao-Cebu-Manila
Manila-Zamboanga-Cotabato-Zamboanga-Iloilo-Manila
Manila-Dumaguete-Cagayan-Dumaguete-Manila

3. SuperFerry 5 – Provisional Authority
Manila-Bacolod-Iligan-Ozamis-Iligan-Manila
Manila-Iloilo-Iligan-Ozamis-Iligan-Bacolod-Manila
Manila-Cebu-Surigao-Nasipit-Surigao-Cebu-Manila
Manila-Zamboanga-Cotabato-Zamboanga-Iloilo-Manila
Manila-Dumaguete-Cagayan-Dumaguete-Manila

4. SuperFerry 8 – Provisional Authority
Manila-Iloilo-Gen. Santos-Davao-Gen. Santos-Iloilo-Manila
Manila-Surigao-Nasipit-Surigao-Cebu-Manila
Manila-Zamboanga-Gen. Santos-Davao-Gen. Santos-Zamboanga-Manila
Manila-Iloilo-Iligan-Ozamis-Iligan-Bacolod-Manila

5. SuperFerry 9 – Provisional Authority
Manila-Bacolod-Iligan-Ozamis-Iligan-Manila
Manila-Iloilo-Iligan-Ozamis-Iligan-Bacolod-Manila
Manila-Cebu-Surigao-Nasipit-Surigao-Cebu-Manila
Manila-Zamboanga-Cotabato-Zamboanga-Iloilo-Manila
Manila-Dumaguete-Cagayan-Dumaguete-Manila

6. SuperFerry 12 – Provisional Authority
Manila-Cebu-Manila

7. Superferry 14 – Provisional Authority
Manila-Iloilo-Cagayan-Bacolod-Manila
Manila-Bacolod-Cagayan-Iloilo-Manila
Manila-Bacolod-Iligan-Ozamis-Iligan-Manila

8. Our Lady of Sacred Heart – Provisional Authority
Manila-Tagbilaran-Dipolog-Tagbilaran-Manila
Manila-Masbate-Palompon-Masbate-Manila

9. Our Lady of Lipa – Provisional Authority
Manila-Dumaguit-Roxas-Dumaguit-Manila

10. Our Lady of Medjugorje – Provisional Authority
Manila-Coron-Puerto Princesa-Coron-Manila
Manila-Tagbilaran-Dumaguete-Tagbilaran-Manila
Manila-Iligan-Ozamis-Iligan-Manila

WILLIAM, GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC. ANNEX "B"

			Class A		Class B		Class C	
Port Links			Present Rates	New Rates	Present Rates	New Rates	Present Rates	New Rates
Manila	-	Bacolod	649.01	687.95	519.05	550.19	422.46	447.81
Manila	-	Batangas	338.03	358.31	270.44	286.66	219.89	233.08
Manila	-	Butuan	945.56	1,002.30	755.39	800.71	615.19	652.10
Manila	-	Cagayan de Oro	773.27	902.66	617.83	721.13	503.05	587.27
Manila	-	Cebu	709.82	752.41	567.13	601.16	461.81	489.52
Manila	-	Coron	480.83	509.66	384.55	407.63	312.94	331.71
Manila	-	Cotabato	1,080.07	1,144.88	862.81	914.58	702.71	744.87
Manila	-	Culasi, Roxas	564.92	598.82	451.80	478.91	367.70	389.77
Manila	-	Davao	1,190.16	1,261.57	950.83	1,007.88	774.31	820.77
Manila	-	Dipolog	770.57	816.80	615.64	652.57	501.32	531.40
Manila	-	Dumaguete	769.13	815.28	614.46	651.35	500.30	530.41
Manila	-	Dumaguit	566.47	600.46	453.05	480.23	368.71	390.83
Manila	-	Gen. Santos	1,054.19	1,117.44	842.23	892.77	685.84	726.99
Manila	-	Iligan	851.57	902.66	680.32	721.13	554.03	587.27
Manila	-	Iloilo	649.01	687.95	519.05	550.19	422.46	447.81
Manila	-	Isabel	670.78	711.03	535.94	568.10	436.39	462.57
Manila	-	Masbate	586.72	621.92	469.24	497.39	381.90	404.81
Manila	-	Nasipit	945.56	1,002.30	755.39	800.71	615.19	652.10
Manila	-	Ozamis	848.66	899.58	678.01	718.69	552.14	585.27
Manila	-	Palompon	649.01	687.95	519.05	550.19	422.46	447.81
Manila	-	Puerto Princesa	667.88	707.96	533.63	565.65	434.52	460.59
Manila	-	Surigao	806.72	855.13	644.51	683.18	524.86	556.35
Manila	-	Tacloban	682.36	723.30	545.18	577.90	443.93	470.56
Manila	-	Tagbilaran	772.02	818.34	616.79	653.80	502.27	532.41
Manila	-	Toledo	709.82	752.41	567.13	601.15	461.81	489.52
Manila	-	Zamboanga	883.38	936.38	705.73	748.08	574.73	609.21
Interports								
Bacolod	-	Batangas	534.27	566.33	427.37	453.02	347.84	368.71
Bacolod	-	Cagayan de Oro	554.02	587.26	443.09	469.67	360.60	382.24
Bacolod	-	Cebu	435.67	461.81	348.44	369.35	283.52	300.54
Bacolod	-	Iligan	521.32	552.59	416.93	441.94	339.30	359.66
Bacolod	-	Iloilo	260.83	276.48	208.73	221.25	169.61	179.78
Bacolod	-	Ozamis	446.62	473.42	356.92	378.34	290.53	307.96
Bacolod	-	Tacloban	448.13	475.02	358.40	379.91	291.64	309.13
Bacolod	-	Toledo	436.39	462.57	349.08	370.03	284.06	301.11
Batangas	-	Cagayan de Oro	696.53	738.32	556.46	589.87	453.14	480.32
Batangas	-	Cebu	575.62	610.37	460.51	488.14	374.64	397.33
Batangas	-	Iloilo	534.37	566.44	427.37	453.02	347.84	368.71
Batangas	-	Tacloban	575.82	610.37	460.51	488.14	374.84	397.33
Cagayan de Oro	-	Cebu	392.06	415.59	313.58	332.40	255.13	270.44
Cagayan de Oro	-	Dumaguete	384.32	407.38	307.49	325.94	250.01	265.01
Cagayan de Oro	-	Iligan	305.86	324.23	244.76	259.45	198.94	210.87
Cagayan de Oro	-	Iloilo	540.00	572.40	431.88	457.79	351.48	372.57
Cagayan de Oro	-	Tacloban	465.25	493.17	372.11	394.43	302.80	320.96
Cagayan de Oro	-	Tagbilaran	387.66	410.92	310.15	328.76	252.18	267.31
Cebu	-	Davao	761.89	807.61	608.71	645.23	495.68	525.43
Cebu	-	Dumaguete	337.60	357.85	270.12	286.33	219.59	232.76
Cebu	-	Gen. Santos	826.98	876.60	660.66	700.33	538.03	570.31
Cebu	-	Iligan	392.06	415.59	313.58	332.40	255.13	270.44
Cebu	-	Iloilo	454.36	481.62	363.38	385.19	295.70	313.45
Cebu	-	Nasipit	399.85	423.84	319.80	338.99	260.21	275.82
Cebu	-	Ozamis	393.62	417.24	314.82	333.71	256.15	271.52
Cebu	-	Surigao	387.66	410.92	310.15	328.76	252.18	267.31
Cebu	-	Tacloban	476.16	504.73	380.82	403.67	309.90	328.49
Cebu	-	Tagbilaran	292.54	310.09	234.08	248.13	190.25	201.66
Cebu	-	Zamboanga	574.26	608.72	459.26	486.83	373.79	396.22
Coron	-	Puerto Princesa	477.72	506.36	382.07	404.99	310.91	329.56
Cotabato	-	Davao	605.41	641.74	484.18	513.23	394.07	417.71
Cotabato	-	Gen. Santos	432.55	458.51	345.96	366.72	281.50	298.39
Cotabato	-	Iloilo	691.03	732.49	552.11	585.23	449.57	476.54
Cotabato	-	Zamboanga	393.62	417.24	314.82	333.71	256.15	271.52
Culasi, Roxas	-	Dumaguit	244.14	258.79	195.38	207.11	158.75	168.27
Davao	-	Gen. Santos	404.52	428.79	323.54	342.96	263.24	279.04
Davao	-	Iloilo	955.69	1,013.03	763.48	809.28	621.78	659.09
Davao	-	Zamboanga	649.01	687.95	519.05	550.19	422.46	447.81
Dipolog	-	Tagbilaran	340.93	361.39	272.78	289.15	221.76	235.07
Dumaguete	-	Tagbilaran	285.66	303.02	228.76	242.48	185.90	197.06
Gen. Santos	-	Iloilo	796.61	844.40	636.43	674.62	518.27	549.36
Gen. Santos	-	Zamboanga	510.42	541.05	408.22	432.71	332.21	352.14
Iligan	-	Iloilo	496.40	526.19	397.01	420.83	323.08	342.46
Iligan	-	Ozamis	264.17	280.02	211.40	224.09	171.78	182.09
Iloilo	-	Ozamis	505.74	536.08	404.48	428.75	288.65	305.97
Iloilo	-	Tacloban	448.13	475.01	358.42	379.92	291.64	309.13
Iloilo	-	Zamboanga	560.24	593.86	448.07	474.95	364.65	386.54
Masbate	-	Palompon	288.83	306.16	230.90	244.76	187.87	199.14
Nasipit	-	Surigao	229.68	243.46	183.67	194.69	149.38	158.34

BILLBOARD BUILDER

Thinking outside the box, dropout makes it big

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

ALVIN Carranza was a student of the Meralco Foundation when he saw a giant neon billboard of Sony Corp. along Edsa. He told a classmate that he'd one day put up a billboard just like it.

He made good on that promise just a few years later, and in two decades would become one of the country's top billboard builders.

Carranza now heads the country's No. 3 billboard company in terms of the number of sites. MacGraphics Carranz boasts of more than 50 billboard sites in prime locations across Metro Manila and in provinces like Cebu and Bacolod.

It hasn't been an easy climb to the top. But then, the 37-year-old Carranza, who had to quit school to earn a living at 18, is no stranger to hard work.

Carranza started out as a salesman of company signage, making things like panaflex signs of fastfood restaurants. He got good contracts, but he left after only three months as his employer failed to pay him his commissions.

One-man army

In 1984, Carranza decided to strike out on his own and fulfill his promise to himself to put up a billboard like that Sony sign he saw a year earlier.

Carranza started with just P5,000 in capital that he used to print letterheads, calling cards and secure the permits that he needed for the business. He then set out, looking up contacts during his old job and selling them the concept of advertising in billboards.

"Starting the business was the most difficult part for me because I did not know that many people, and I had very limited capital. Because I was just 18, some people did not believe that I meant business. I remember that I had to wear glasses and bring an attaché case just so that I could look a little older," he said.

Carranza was a one-man army. He was site developer, marketing, sales, designer and installation foreman rolled into one. He also single-handedly negotiated a contract with his first client, Dunkin Donuts, which put up a billboard along Edsa in Mandaluyong in 1985.

From there, Carranza went from client to client to convince them of the cost-effectiveness of putting up billboards. He also actively scouted for prime billboard sites along Edsa. He went up and down Metro Manila, talked to the building or landowners and then leased the space for his billboards.

Outside the box

"We really invested in the prime spots in Metro Manila. It was a good time because the market was still raw during that time, and people were looking for innovations since signs during that time were made of plain GI sheets or wood," he said.

Carranza regularly checked the latest developments in billboard design through travel and subscription to billboard magazines, allowing his firm to be the first to introduce photographic billboards.

Carranza also pioneered the use of "trivision," or 3-D, billboards and giant tower-type billboards, such as the one in Guadalupe. The 27,000-square-foot display area is considered the biggest in the country, perhaps even in Southeast Asia.

The billboard space in Guadalupe is the most expensive so far at P250,000 a month for one slot.

"We always have to think outside the box. I think innovation is the key in this business to stay ahead. That is why I travel a lot to the US, Japan and even Hong Kong and Singapore to look at the latest trends," Carranza said.

Best years for billboard

Carranza considers the years just before the Asian currency crisis as the best years for the billboard industry, as companies had more budget for advertising, including outdoor advertising.

Major companies today are more open to the use of outdoor advertising.

"Many are finding outdoor advertising more cost-effective, especially for those companies that only have one or two branches. They find a billboard works better for them because they do not really need the nationwide exposure of television or newspapers," he explained.

Carranza's list of billboard advertisers now includes Sun Life, Penshoppe, Toyota, Procter and Gamble, Bayo, Ayala Land, Globe Telecom, Pilipinas Shell, Citibank, Pink Soda, Cinderella, Jag, PLDT and Kimberly-Clark.

"I also believe that my patron saint, Our Lady of Guadalupe, has a lot to do with the growth of our company," he said.

From billboards, Carranza has also invested in a new project, a restaurant called Café Lupe, which is the first in the country to be set up under the Guadalupe billboard tower.

Serving mainly Mexican food, Carranza says he has always wanted to go into food, and the vacant space under the signs has been just right for his first venture but certainly not the last.

"Our plan now is to put up another billboard tower and also another restaurant under it," he said.

sky's the limit.

MACGRAPHICS Carranz's billboard tower along Edsa is considered the country's biggest.

ON PUBLIC'S TELECOM WOES

Can't blame gov't, telecom firms

Editor's Note: *The following is Smart Communications Inc.'s reply to a three-part special report on the telecommunications industry, specifically on the matter of text messaging.*

THE THREE-PART series on the mobile phone industry published by the INQUIRER from Oct. 14 to 16 has raised several issues that require further comment in the interest of balance and fair play. Allow me to focus on just a few.

Perhaps most disturbing is the virtually unchallenged assertion that mobile phone companies, which have become large and successful in recent years, have turned into uncontrollable entities imbued with "superhuman powers." Another regrettable statement refers to the National Telecommunications Commission as "a partner in crime" of telecom companies bent on sacrificing consumer interests for the sake of profits.

It may be understandable that the industry critics quoted in the article should express such views. It is very unfortunate—and unfair—however that the views of the NTC commissioners and the mobile phone companies were not juxtaposed against such assertions.

Industry critics attacked the NTC for its handling of the reduction of free text allocations by cellular operators. The commission, they said, washed its hands, saying text messaging was a deregulated service.

Fruit of deregulation

The commission should not be faulted for abiding by the government's policy of deregulation that has been defined in Republic Act No. 7925. In the Telecoms Act, the government moved away from regulation in favor of liberalization in order to promote the development of the telecom industry.

This policy has indeed produced results. This can be seen from the vastly improved telecom facilities and much wider range of alternative services now available to the public at rates that are among the lowest in the world.

This policy has borne fruit because private companies have been encouraged to invest tens of billion of pesos in network infrastructure and in the development of telecom services. In the case of Smart, for example, we invested nearly P20 billion in 2001. That means for every peso of profits that we made last year, we invested P5 in network infrastructure and other capital expenditures.

As a result, the industry has been an engine of growth for the economy and has helped improve the lives of our people, including those in the most remote areas of our country.

Political reality

Despite deregulation, however, the political reality is this: the telecommunications industry—inclusive of mobile phone companies—remains a highly regulated industry. Cellular operators do not have the same freedom of movement as other businesses. Moreover, they are subject to the scrutiny of not just one but a plethora of government agencies.

Proof of this fact can be seen in the pages of your newspaper. Industry representatives are periodically called not only to hearings of the NTC, but also face interrogation by different committees of both houses of Congress.

The finance department is closely examining the payment of value-added taxes on prepaid phone cards. Meantime, there is a proposal that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas take charge of printing prepaid phone cards. Also, operators' accounts are periodically looked over by the Bureau of Internal Revenue. And, in another area altogether, their activities are constantly monitored by local governments.

Finally, and most importantly, each operator is subject to the judgment of its own subscribers, who have the readily available option of switching to competitors. Commercial success and the visibility this brings clearly have their downside. These certainly do not make mobile phone companies "untouchable."

Pure Txt 100

Allow me a word about "Pure Txt 100." The second installment of the three-part series titled "Text Messaging: Modern-day curse or blessing?" which was published Oct. 15, contained a reference to me as admitting that Smart had made a "mistake" in its initial publicity regarding this new product.

Responding to questions, I did acknowledge that there had been criticisms of early promotional materials for this product. I also said we had indeed taken action on the instructions of the NTC and taken steps to further explain the product. But this was not an admission that the company had made an "initial mistake" in its promotions.

In numerous interviews on this subject, I have stressed that Smart has used various means from the outset to convey to the public the features of this new product, including the fact that voice calls—both incoming and outgoing—are temporarily deactivated once the prepaid subscriber loads a Pure Txt card. Hence the name "Pure Txt."

The final irony here is that this product, which has been described by one critic as "absolutely evil," has, in fact, been very well received by mobile phone users for whom it was designed. The take-up of the product shows that Pure Txt is indeed serving its purpose of providing an alternative service to subscribers facing temporary cash difficulties. That makes it a very worthwhile service indeed.

Ramon R. Isberto
Head, Public Affairs
Smart Communications Inc.

CHINABANK

CHINA BANKING CORPORATION
8745 Paseo de Roxas corner Villar St., Makati City

A full-service, universal bank serving you thru 138 branches and 158 ATMs nationwide

Celebrating 82 years of service since 1920

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Head Office and Branches)
As of SEPTEMBER 20, 2002

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items		₱ 1,062,122,056
Due from Bangko Sentral		3,376,182,309
Due from Other Banks		873,766,738
Interbank Loans Receivable		2,617,314,000
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)		11,470,688,907
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		25,906,517,425
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		35,611,975,755
Equity Investments (Net)		177,421,826
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,938,184,459
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		4,396,708,833
Others		3,408,827,615
TOTAL ASSETS		₱ 91,839,709,923

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits		₱ 8,473,815,057
Savings Deposits		29,372,477,267
Time Deposits		29,298,851,012
Special/Other Deposits		41,241,189
Due to Bangko Sentral		20,658,971
Due to Banks		3,794,637
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		315,532,922
Bills Payable		5,184,591,939
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		626,149,942
Other Liabilities		3,418,345,299
TOTAL LIABILITIES		₱ 76,755,458,235

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock		₱ 3,209,289,026
Surplus		9,745,235,549
Surplus Reserves		271,708,478
Other Capital Accounts		1,858,018,635
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		₱ 15,084,251,688
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		₱ 91,839,709,923

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		₱ 1,783,233,247
Bills for Collection		252,981,360
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		0
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		1,686,147,436
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		25,371,473,735
Invested in:		
Government Securities	₱16,556,695,644	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	916,758,825	
Loans and Discounts	2,477,265,772	
Other Assets	5,420,753,494	
Accountabilities:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	22,037,565,779	
Common Trust Funds	668,742,892	
Investment/Fund Management	2,492,155,986	
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	173,009,078	
Other contingent accounts		1,952,826,242
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		₱ 31,046,662,020

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of		
A) Government		P 3,901,227
B) Banks		171,191,203
C) Trust department		12,332,233
2. Compliance with Magna Carta Law:		
Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	*6% For Small Ent.*	*2% For Medium Ent.*
Actual Compliance	202%	688%
3. Amount of non-performing loans		6,606,686,920
4. Ratio of non-performing loans to total loan portfolio		15.60%
5. Amount of classified loans and other risk assets		14,310,586,224
6. General provision for loan losses		1,479,038,270
7. Specific provision for loan losses		2,429,769,023
8. Return on Equity		23.88%
9. DOSRI loans/advances		2,597,956,323
10 Ratio to total loan portfolio		6.16%
11. Past due DOSRI loans/advances		14,469,390
12. Ratio to total loan portfolio		0.03%

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } S. S.
CITY OF MAKATI

We, RICARDO R. CHUA and PETER S. DEE, of the above mentioned Bank, do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) RICARDO R. CHUA
Executive Vice President &
Chief Operating Officer

(Sgd.) PETER S. DEE
President &
Chief Executive Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this Oct. 11, 2002, affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 02077204 issued at Makati on January 11, 2002 and Residence Certificate No. 17405864 issued at Manila on February 21, 2002, respectively.

Doc. No. 221
Page No. 46
Book No. 30
Series of 2002

(Sgd.) BELENETTE Y. CHING TAN
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 6744360 Makati 1/10/02
TIN 153-062-566

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(Bank and Financial Subsidiaries)
As of SEPTEMBER 20, 2002

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Items		₱ 1,060,155,629
Due from Bangko Sentral		3,376,182,309
Due from Other Banks		873,766,738
Interbank Loans Receivable		2,617,314,000
Trading Accounts Securities (Net)		11,470,688,907
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)		25,988,313,369
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)		35,611,975,756
Equity Investments (Net)		125,921,826
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (Net)		2,938,442,083
Other Assets (Net):		
Property Owned/Acquired		4,396,708,833
Others		3,440,425,856
TOTAL ASSETS		₱ 91,899,895,306

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

LIABILITIES

Demand Deposits		₱ 8,473,815,057
Savings Deposits		29,372,477,267
Time Deposits		29,298,851,012
Special/Other Deposits		41,241,189
Due to Bangko Sentral		20,658,971
Due to Banks		3,794,637
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		315,532,922
Bills Payable		5,184,591,939
Unearned Income and Other Deferred Credits		649,959,188
Other Liabilities		3,454,721,435
TOTAL LIABILITIES		₱ 76,815,643,617
Minority Interest in Subsidiary		₱ 0

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock		₱ 3,209,289,026
Surplus		9,745,235,550
Surplus Reserves		271,708,478
Other Capital Accounts		1,858,018,635
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		₱ 15,084,251,689
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		₱ 91,899,895,306

CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS

Unused Commercial Letters of Credit		₱ 1,783,233,247
Bills for Collection		252,981,360
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		0
Spot/Future Exchange Bought		1,686,147,436
Assets Held Under Trust and Investment Management Agreements		25,371,473,735
Invested in:		
Government Securities	₱16,556,695,644	
Other Securities, Debt Instruments and Shares of Stock	916,758,825	
Loans and Discounts	2,477,265,772	
Other Assets	5,420,753,494	
Accountabilities:		
Trust and Other Fiduciary	22,037,565,779	
Common Trust Funds	668,742,892	
Investment/Fund Management	2,492,155,986	
Unearned Income & Other Accountabilities	173,009,078	
Other contingent accounts		1,952,826,242
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		₱ 31,046,662,020

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Deposits of	
A) Government ..	P 3,901,227
B) Banks	171,191,203
C) Trust Department .	12,332,233

2. List of Bank's Financial Subsidiaries
A) CBC FOREX CORPORATION
B) CBC INSURANCE BROKERS, INC.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES } S. S.
CITY OF MAKATI

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(Sgd.) BELENETTE Y. CHING TAN
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 6744360 Makati 1/10/02
TIN 153-062-566

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Corporate citizenship: Business execs speak out

CORPORATE citizenship, otherwise known as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), has become a buzzword in today's boardrooms. With the increasing number of Filipinos living below the poverty threshold, a marked environment degradation and the spate of recent scandals in corporate America, chief executive officers (CEOs) of major Philippine companies have been compelled to review the impacts of their businesses on the society.

Although corporate citizenship, a term which is beginning to be more widely accepted in recent years, has contributed to pockets of development among different poverty groups, the many criticisms and misconceptions about CSR practices still reflect the skeptical views the public may have toward these gestures of corporate goodwill.

Miguel Juan del Gallego, president and general manager of Degalen Corp., echoed this common misconception, "the corporate world may very well be familiar with these terms as an emerging business strategy, however there is the risk of viewing this concept as a motivation toward a purely capitalist end."

In the recent executive briefings organized by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) in the Visayas and the NCR for its prospective member companies, a number of CEOs and senior managers showed that they have indeed revisited this school of thought as an imperative for doing-business-beyond-profit principle.

Genuine intention

"The core of corporate social responsibility lies in the genuine intention to help people help themselves. Thus, there is a call to reaffirm this concept and objectively outline its components and the possible concrete programs that may be developed," explains Del Gallego who currently sits as chair of PBSP Visayas committee.

The PBSP, as an organization of more than 160 corporations, has taken the responsibility of promoting corporate citizenship in the wide business community.

Started by 50 of the country's leading businessmen in 1970 at a time of grave social unrest, PBSP has since established long-term sustainable programs that have benefited more than 2.2 million low-income households. What is now one of the largest grant-making and project implementing foundations in the Philippines, PBSP has been trailblazing in business-led partnerships that has successfully tackled the multi-faceted problems of poverty.

This principle of solidarity, fortunately, continues among its present members. As Marixi Prieto, chair of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and a PBSP trustee, said in the briefing, "The basic idea is for all of us to understand and agree that business is part of society, and is responsible for contributing to its development. By putting together our energies, resources and expertise, the opportunity for strategic synergy and partnership becomes more apparent."

PBSB chair Manny Pangilinan shares the value of practicing good corporate citizenship to business during the executive briefing for prospective member companies organized by PBSP.

New dimension

The eminent pressure on corporations to respond to globalization and social development issues had subsequently changed traditional charitable giving practices. Soon, corporations started adding a new dimension to their philantrophic activities by developing partnerships with NGOs in implementing sustainable poverty alleviation programs.

"When choosing your strategy for promoting good corporate citizenship, certainly the business principles of cost efficiency, transparency and accountability are highly valued. For some companies, their expression of pursuing their own brand of CSR is through the creation of their own corporate foundations. Others have chosen to work through NGOs such as PBSP, while many have chosen to engage in both. However the days of uncertain economic growth have become increasingly challenging and financially constricting for business to engage in corporate giving and more so, long-term social development projects," elaborates Pedro Roxas, chair and CEO of Central Azucarera Don Pedro and a PBSP trustee.

In the case of PBSP, corporate members set aside one percent of their net income before tax to social development as a whole. Of this one percent, 20 percent is provided to PBSP as their annual contribution and the remaining 80 percent is used for any CSR program of their choice. These programs may either be coursed through or implemented by PBSP as an intermediary organization or may be implemented by the company directly.

Grants, donations

Funding sources however are not entirely taken from corporate contributions. Using management approaches very similar to corporations, PBSP's funds are used to leverage for more resources from multilateral institutions who give loans or bilateral assistance. With more than three decades of social development in the grass roots, it has also earned the confidence of international funding donors for grants.

As Manuel Pangilinan, PLDT president and CEO and PBSP chair puts it, "With funds sourced from USAID in 1989 and KfW of Germany in 1995, for instance, PBSP's Small and Medium Enterprise Credit (SMEC) program has financed about P2.6 billion worth of micro and SME undertakings. This has proven to be an effective method of increasing employment and incomes especially in the rural areas of the country."

An important aspect of this corporate citizenship is the CEOs' active and hands-on involvement in foundation work as they provided consultation time, sound business advice and organizational direction for various social development programs.

"As the country fuels a competitive NGO environment, resources for development work are spread out sometimes too thinly. Not to belittle anyone's efforts, but it would be more fulfilling to see the healthy interplay of effective social marketing and sound accomplishments," said Jesus Tambunting, PBSP trustee and chair of Planters Development Bank.

Bringing the different groups under a single local umbrella organization and handling of funds and control of the program to this organization has indeed benefited everyone concerned.

"This is the beauty of the collective response. With resources put together, more can be accomplished and the impact becomes significant," concludes Catherine Weir, Citibank country chair and a PBSP trustee.

ADB upgrades economic growth projection for RP to 4%

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ASIAN Development Bank, quoting London-based think tank Consensus Economics Inc., has increased its gross domestic product projection for the country this year to 4 percent from its earlier forecast of 3.8 percent.

This was attributed to the country's good first-half performance that showed growth of 4.1 percent year-on-year, which was much better compared with its East Asian neighbors' performance.

"Second-quarter growth was particularly buoyant at 4.5 percent, exceeding both the government forecast and market expectations. The quarter-on-quarter annualized growth accelerated to 9.7 percent in the April-June period after a decline of 0.2 percent in the first quarter, suggesting the economy is picking up," ADB said in its economic monitor released yesterday.

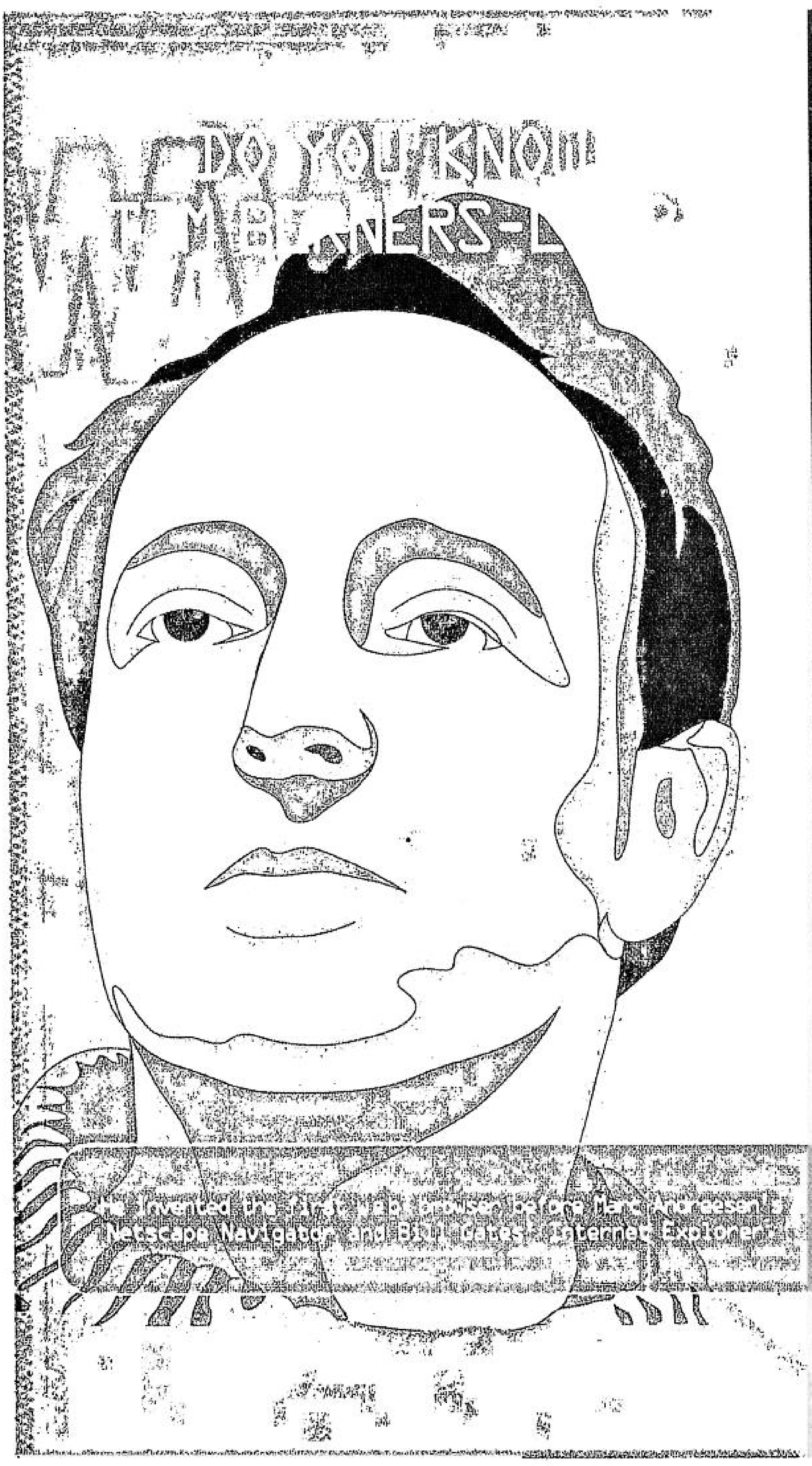
Growth during this period was driven largely by a rebound in exports of goods and services as well as strong consumer spending.

Exports grew by 7.3 percent in the second quarter, compared with a 4.1-percent decline posted in the preceding quarter.

Consumer spending likewise improved by 3.6 percent in the first half, while the government did some belt tightening that resulted in zero growth in government spending during the same period.

The manufacturing and servi- es

ADB/B10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Global labor problems

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

WHILST the advent of globalization has indeed opened a lot of windows of opportunities for the highly adventurous Filipino labor, it also brought about untold social problems, absent enough safety nets and effective workers' protection. Whilst this phenomenon of unprecedented workers' migration has admittedly saved the Philippine economy from ultimate perdition, the unabated exodus of millions of human capital into foreign countries has deprived our third world economy with much needed brains and brawn at such a crucial stage of our national development.

In short, we traded away our human capital in our pursuit of the almighty dollar. As a result, our socioeconomic growth has been stunted. What is worse, this phenomenon has brought about mounting social problems like broken marriages, shattered families, much eroded moral and ethical values and a maligned image of the Filipinos in the eyes of the world. Today, the Philippines is known in the family of nations as the No. 1 supplier of cheap labor.

Global OFWs

Anywhere in the world, there is an OFW. In construction sites in Saudi Arabia, oil depots in Dubai and seaports in Rastanurah. In Abu Dhabi, the hotel clerk is from Sultan Kudarat. In Kuwait, the storekeeper is from Nueva Ecija. The Filipinos are all over the world, across all industries in all types of work. You can see them in the airport, the post office, the mosque.

In New York, the doctor is from Cebu, the nurse is from Masbate and the med tech is from Iligan. In LA, the combo player is from Bohol and the singer from Bacolod. Even the songs carry a Visayan twang. In Las Vegas, the casino card dealer is from Davao and the waiter from Albay. In Rome, the caregiver is from Ilocos and the priest is from Mindoro. In Japan, the dancer is from Siquijor and the cook from Surigao. They are everywhere and anywhere.

Global lockout

A few days ago, some 30 ports in the US West Coast decided to lock out their protesting workers. While the causes of the labor dispute were local, the impact of the conflict was global. Most adversely affected is, of course, the Asia-Pacific export-led attempts at economic rebound. Filipino OFWs are working in most of the companies affected. When the US economy sneezes, we suffer a flu.

A good number of vessels from Asia was stranded at sea and was unable to dock in San Diego, LA and environs, thus preventing the delivery of goods from our side of the Pacific basin. Everything coming from our end, from Japanese auto parts, Singaporean electronics, Chinese textiles, Australian citrus and Filipino furnitures and handicrafts, was undelivered and unsold. Filipino seamen are manning the ships. Every single day of delay means lost money and lost opportunity since the universal principle of "no work, no pay" would apply.

Economic impact

The complete standstill of the Asia-US supply chain is expected to disrupt not only the US retail trade but also the Asia manufacturing and export as well as transport-related businesses. If this impasse persists for a month, the effect on Asian economy can be catastrophic. And since Filipino OFWs are dominating the labor markets in Asia, the impact on us can be horrendous.

Toyota's and General Motor's joint venture plant in California halted operations as well as their plants in Indiana, Kentucky and Canada due to shortage of spare parts. Australia's 5,000 tons of beef and 2,000 tons of lamb and mutton are going to rot at sea if the lockout in the United States will continue.

Filipino seamen in distress

The Nippon Yusen KK, Japan's largest shipping firm, has reported that 13 of its ships, loaded with Japanese auto products, are lying off in the west coast unable to land. Mitsui OSK, Japan's second biggest shipping company, has four of its vessels stuck in the western edge of the Pacific Ocean. It is loaded with vans containing furnitures, kitchen wares, shoes and auto parts.

Thousands of Filipino seamen are manning these vessels. They are running out of food, water and fuel. They are also running out of patience. The ships' owners are in deep quandary what to do. If the United States could not settle the dispute, serious trouble can erupt. And the livelihoods of Filipinos abroad are in jeopardy.

Presidential intervention

President Bush, invoking the 1947-vintage Taft Hartley Act through the Justice Department, filed a petition with the federal court seeking an injunction against the lockout and declaring that the President shall intervene in the dispute pursuant to the Act.

This is similar to the assumption powers of the President and the labor secretary under the Labor Code in cases of labor disputes causing a strike or lockout in industries indispensable to national interest. The US economy is suffering no less than $2 billion a day. The ports lockout is deemed a national emergency.

Trouble in Iraq

If the United States should bomb Iraq and a major war should erupt in the Middle East, thousands, if not millions, of OFWs should be repatriated to our country. That means our labor-excess economy would have to absorb the returning workers. Since most of them are better skilled, they may ease out our local labor and exacerbate our unemployment.

Their return should also mean a substantial reduction of our dollar remittances, thus jeopardizing our highly precarious economic recovery.

Strategic thrusts

This phenomenon of massive labor migration is illustrative of our worsening conditions and our inability to refocus our employment strategies. Not only are foreign investments gradually withdrawing from our country. There is an endless flight of our human capital. Our Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas is doing her best to find a long-range solution to this long-standing social problem.

What we need is an integrated legislative agenda that shall gradually refocus the thrusts of employment initiatives to our domestic economy. The Labor Code should thus be amended along this line so that the DOLE, POEA and Owwa could act accordingly.

DTI to intervene in Subic water concession issue

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry will review the water concession agreement of the British-managed Subic Water and Sewerage Co. in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone due to mounting complaints. from locators over the utility firm's undue rate increases in the past five years.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the review was meant to ensure a predictable and stable water rate structure in the concession agreement to prevent future dispute with its clients.

Roxas said the water rate hike issue had been pending for the last few years with the Taiwanese businessmen in the Subic Bay Industrial Park making the loudest noise on what they termed as unfair rate adjustments.

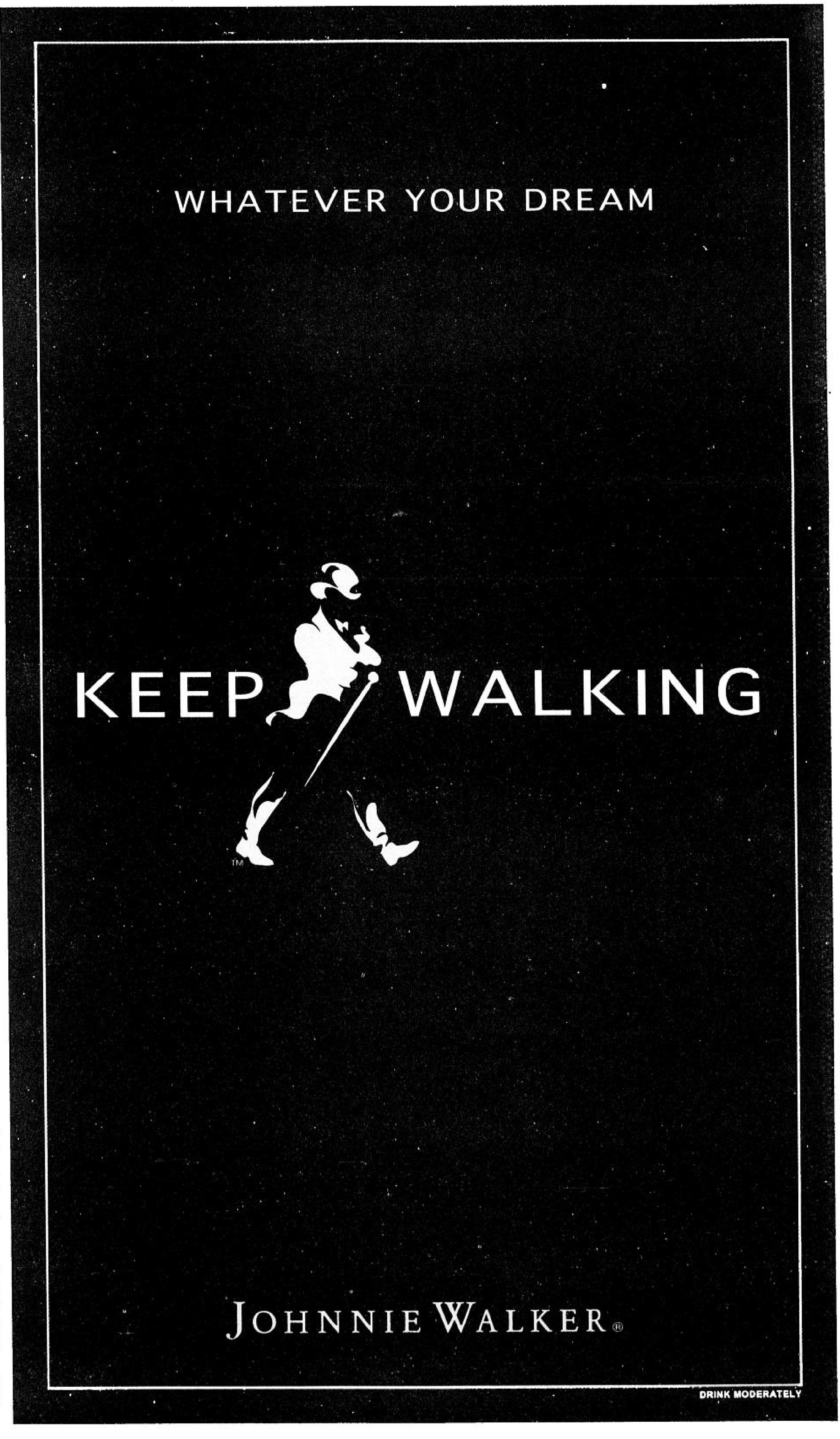
Roxas said that since Subic Water took over the water supply contract in the former American naval base in 1997, it had raised water rates seven times to P32 per cubic meter at present.

The Subic locators led by the Taiwanese group have opposed the string of rate hikes but their protests have been met with threats by the concessionaire of a water supply disconnection.

Roxas assured the locators that the government was currently finding a solution to the Subic water problem to ease their concerns and maintain the viability of their operations.

Subic Water is a joint venture among Biwater International of the UK (30 percent), construction giant D.M. Consunji Inc. (40 percent), Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (20 percent) and the Olongapo City local government (10 percent).

The Taiwanese are the biggest investors in Subic largely due to the presence of computer giant Acer which operates a factory in the Freeport through its subsidiary Wistron Infocomm Philippines Corp. It is a spin-off of Acer's operations that focus on design manufacturing services operation. Acer's Subic plant currently has 2,300 employees and it has produced 10 million motherboards and 1 million notebook computers since it started operations in 1995. Acer (Subic) posted $780 million in revenues last year or 2.8 percent of the country's total export earnings last year.



SEC allows stock exchange to set own schedule

By Elena R. Torrijos

SECURITIES regulators have given the Philippine Stock Exchange the power to adjust its trading hours without seeking prior approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In a news briefing on Wednesday, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the SEC recently approved a resolution giving the stock exchange room to adjust its trading hours.

It would be cumbersome for the stock exchange to keep on going back to the commission for approval every time it adjusts its trading hours, Bautista said.

Normally, any changes in the stock exchange's rules must have the approval of the SEC.

On Tuesday, the PSE halted afternoon trading due to sluggish market conditions.

The stock exchange only began afternoon trading in February but said the costs of the extended trading were not being recovered.

"While there are valid considerations for extended trading, incomes under current market conditions have not been commensurate to cover the incremental costs of operations in the afternoon in spite of measures taken to reduce and alleviate costs," the stock exchange said in a statement.

It also cited "the bearish outlook in global markets," as a reason for the suspension.

Beginning Oct. 15, trading reverted to its old schedule, with trading hours between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.

The stock exchange said it would continue to look for ways of lowering trading costs in the afternoon but did not say if it was likely to resume afternoon trading.

The Philippine market has been in a slump in recent weeks, hitting an 11-month low on Tuesday.

Some brokers, particularly those with offices abroad, have been batting for extended trading hours, offering a schedule of 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., so that they could tap markets in Europe.

Most brokers, mainly small local players, objected to this proposal.

Several months ago, the stock exchange extended trading to 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the hope that it would perk up trading volume.

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SEC set on screening directors of listed firms

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is set to submit this month to the Capital Market Development Council proposed changes to the Securities Regulation Code to give it the power to screen prospective directors of companies under its jurisdiction.

The proposed amendments will be similar to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' fit-and-proper rules.

The central bank's fit-and-proper rules were designed to allow government regulators to reject the appointment to a bank's board of unqualified directors.

"Our timetable is before the end of the month. I hope we can make it," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said.

Bautista stressed that the submission of the proposed amendments to the Securities Regulation Code was a condition for the Asian Development Bank's release of a $100-million loan to the government.

The ADB loan is for the development of the non-bank financial sector in the Philippines. It calls for many reforms, particularly those coming from the SEC.

Proceeds of the loan are supposed to support the government's budgetary requirements.

The CMDC, composed of private and public sector representatives, will endorse the amendments to the Securities Regulation Code to Congress if it finds it appropriate.

At present, the SEC has no power to pre-screen directors to listed companies, investment houses, pre-need companies and those under its jurisdiction, although it has provided criteria for the appointment of independent directors.

Treasury bond yields fall slightly on peso rebound

TREASURY bond yields fell about 15 to 20 basis points at the secondary market yesterday, heartened by the rebound of the peso after it dropped to 14-month lows in the wake of the Bali blasts, dealers said.

Various estimates on the government's nine-month budget deficit figure have so far been factored in already in Treasury yields, dealers said, with a possible deficit of P180 billion for the year implied in rates.

High market liquidity also helped to push down rates, especially for Treasury bonds with maturities of two to five years.

The two-year bond was dealt at 8.85 percent and the five-year paper at 11 percent.

"The market has calmed down after the Bali blasts, as you can see with the peso's movement. We're back to fundamentals, and the market is still liquid," said a dealer from a local bank.

"It's like everybody wants to hold on to their long GS (government securities) positions for the rest of the year. You don't want to sell at these levels, you know that this rally is temporary," the dealer said.

The peso was trading firmer on Thursday, hitting a high of 52.74 to the dollar against its previous close of 52.96. The local currency hit a 14-month low of 53.17 to the dollar on Tuesday.

Concerns about the country's budget deficit has waned a bit, dealers said, with market participants resigned to the possibility that the government would not meet even its worst estimate of a deficit of about P155 billion this year.

Dealers said the market was quite comfortable with a higher budget deficit for the year since the Treasury had already raised enough funds to meet a deficit of as high as P185 billion. Best-bid yields for three-month bills were at 5.4 percent; six-months at 6.7 percent; one-year at 7.6 percent; two-year bonds at 9 percent; three-year at 9.55 percent; four-year at 10.55 percent; five-year at 11.175 percent; seven-year at 12 percent; 10-year at 12.3 percent; 20-year at 13.5 percent; and 25-year at 14.25 percent.

In the interbank market late on Wednesday, the average rate edged higher at 7.06 percent from 7.03 percent previously.

Volume dropped to P60 million from the previous P2.950 billion.

There was one lender and one borrower. *Reuters*

ADB upgrades economic …

From page B8

ctors also made their significant contributions to boost the country's GDP. Manufacturing growth was placed at 3.7 percent in the first half while services grew 5.3 percent, fueled by communications, trade and financial services.

Despite these positive developments, however, Consensus Economics remained cautious over next year's growth rate.

While the ADB sees a 4.5-percent GDP growth for the country in 2003, Consensus Economics has projected a slower-than-2002 forecast of 3.8 percent.

"With continued uncertainties over global and US economic prospects, keeping domestic demand strong is key to sustaining growth. Growth of public consumption and investment is likely to be constrained by the government's revenue problem," it said.

The government is expected to post a budget deficit of around P180 billion to P200 billion this year unless it improves its tax collection efforts and finds other sources of revenues, including privatization of government assets and companies, according to former Finance Chief Roberto De Ocampo.

"The ballooning fiscal deficit in the first eight months of this year was largely caused by a significant shortfall in revenue collection. But this problem is not new. The government has introduced several reforms to improve revenue collection, including stricter monitoring, auditing and enforcement; intensifying the tax awareness campaign and waging a war against smuggling. It is essential that such efforts be continued and stepped up," it said.

Private investments are also seen to remain weak, although this can be a good source of growth when it picks up.

Effective government policies was key to the full recovery of private investments, Consensus Economics said. While low interest rates could encourage more private investments, the rising non-performing loans ratio of banks could hamper their capacity for lending.

"More fundamentally, it is essential that the government continues to improve the business environment, including maintaining macro stability, keeping fiscal deficits under control, tackling the peace and order situation, fighting corruption, and upgrading the country's infrastructure.

ADB sees higher growth in East Asia

THE ASIAN Development Bank (ADB) said on Thursday that East Asian economies, especially China, were likely to expand more this year than earlier estimated, but warned the risks to unfettered growth had increased.

A war in Iraq or a slowdown in industrialized countries could swiftly derail the region's economic health, the Manila-based multilateral institution said in a quarterly report.

Relatively healthy exports so far this year, a rebound in domestic demand because of expansionary policies and restructuring and an improvement in private capital flows had led to higher than expected growth in the region, it said.

On average, China, South Korea and the 10 countries in the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) should grow 6 percent this year, up from an estimate of 5.8 percent in July, it said.

However, growth in 2003 would be about 5.9 percent, down from the July estimate of 6.2 percent, primarily because of slower expansion in industrialized countries and consequently a fall-off in demand for Asian exports.

"This scenario is however subject to a higher degree of uncertainty now than in July, with most of the external risks on the downside," the ADB's Asia Economic Monitor said.

It named these primarily as much slower growth in industrialized countries, which would hurt exports from Asia, and a possible US attack on Iraq, which would heighten uncertainty and lead to an immediate spike in oil prices.

It said higher oil prices would lead to stagflationary effects on East Asia—lower growth and higher inflation.

However, so far, prospects for this year looked upbeat.

According to the ADB, China was expected to grow 7.7 percent in 2002 against the earlier forecast of 7.4 percent, Thailand 4.3 percent against 3.7 percent, Malaysia 4.2 percent against 4.1 percent, Indonesia 3.5 percent against 3.4 percent and the Philippines 4.2 percent against 3.8 percent.

Korea's growth was estimated at 6.1 percent, the same as in July while Singapore's forecast was downgraded to 3.8 percent from the previous 4.2 percent. *Reuters*

China's economic might will take toll on SE Asia

BANGKOK, Thailand—As China's economic might grows, multinational companies are less likely to invest in Southeast Asia, experts warned Thursday, while urging regional governments to hasten economic reforms.

"Foreign firms are producing in China instead of elsewhere in Asia," Nicholas Lardy, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a think tank in Washington, told a business conference titled "Future with China."

An example of China's boom in foreign manufacturing is the growth in foreign company exports from China, which jumped from just 1 percent of all exports in 1985 to more than 50 percent in 2001, he said.

Lardy told some 300 regional business executives at the conference that Southeast Asia's trade with China, which grew from US$8 billion in 1991 to nearly US$40 billion in 2000, is lagging far behind East Asia's trade with China.

Taiwan's trade alone with China has grown from US$10 billion in 1981 to US$30 billion last year. China is Taiwan's biggest export market, with heavy outflows of computer and consumer electronics parts for manufacturing.

China became the biggest exporter of goods to Japan for the month of August, displacing the United States for the first time while China recently became South Korea's second-largest export market.

Sarasin Viraphol of Thailand's CP Group, a business conglomerate with interests in China, agreed with Lardy's assessment, saying the Association of Southeast Asian Nations "seems to have lost the momentum on regional economic integration."

"In effect, with looming Chinese competition, Asean has no alternative but to quicken its own economic reform," he said in a paper distributed at the conference.

"The first order of business on the list is for Asean to strengthen its fundamentals," he said.

During most of the 1990s China received more foreign direct investment than any other developing country. The trend is most clearly illustrated in the footwear and toy manufacturing sectors, which now dominate US imports.

China is poised to become a major player in the apparel and textile sectors when industry quotas—known as the Multifiber Agreement—are phased out in 2004. *AP*

Japan awaits policy steps, may be disappointed

TOKYO—Japan's top economic advisory panel meets later on Thursday to iron out ideas to clean up the banking sector and revive the economy, but some analysts are already advising investors not to get too excited about what may emerge.

The Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's main policy forum, will discuss tax cuts as well as safety-net measures for workers and small businesses that could be hit by efforts to spur the disposal of bad bank loans.

Economics and Financial Services Minister Heizo Takenaka was due to speak on the outcome of the meeting after 0730 GMT.

But some economists say that overly high expectations about an economic package due to be outlined by early next week and finalized by the end of the month could turn out to be a major disappointment for the markets.

"From what we can tell now, it could be like putting a bandage on a terminally ill patient," said Shuji Shirota, an economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein in Tokyo.

The government's policy package is expected to comprise measures to accelerate bank reforms and steps to cushion the potentially painful fallout resulting from a banking sector clean-up, such as bankruptcies and unemployment.

A task force led by Takenaka has been working on action plans to resolve the bad loan problem, and worries in the market that the team might take a hard-nosed approach pummeled the Nikkei share average to 19-year lows last week.

An interim report from the task force is expected to come out by early next week, ahead of the economic package.

Shirota said that about 10 trillion yen ($80 billion) of fiscal stimulus would be needed if the government was serious about ending deflation by boosting demand. *Reuters*

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AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING COMPUTER STORES NATIONWIDE

IBM profit down, shares rise

NEW YORK—International Business Machines Corp. on Wednesday said third-quarter net earnings fell on losses at its hard disk drive business, but a rebound in services revenues and a rosy sales forecast drove up Big Blue's stock in after-hours trade.

Excluding those disk drive assets, which it plans to sell to Hitachi Ltd. by year-end, the computer services, hardware and software company said that its earnings per share rose slightly as it cut costs.

Armonk, NY-based IBM said revenue in its closely watched service division rebounded after several quarters of declines, while hardware sales and software sales both fell.

Chief Financial Officer John Joyce backed analyst estimates for earnings and revenue in the fourth quarter, saying that while he won't forecast the economy, he believes IBM can increase revenues from the third quarter by 12 percent.

Shares in IBM jumped, rising 7.5 percent in after hours trading to $69.80.

Wall Street is watching closely for signs of a seasonal pick-up in demand for technology during the fourth quarter and bracing for the opposite—that corporations concerned about profits won't make their usual year-end purchases.

Customers remain cautious about signing large services contracts and the environment is tough, Joyce told analysts on a conference call, but he said "customers are still spending."

Investors said they were relieved that the company's services revenues reversed its downward trend and gained about 2 percent, particularly after rival Electronic Data Systems issued a shock profit warning last month. Services account for more than 40 percent of revenues at IBM, more than any other division.

"They managed to do $9 billion in signings of new services business and we are satisfied with that, particularly given the tough environment and the warning from EDS," said John Rutledge, portfolio manager for the Evergreen Technology Fund. *Reuters*

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STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(As of September 20, 2002)

ASSETS		AMOUNT
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	P	790,484,077
Due from Other Banks		1,938,880,917
Trading Account Securities – net		1,968,057,542
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments – net		826,694,197
Loans, Discounts & Advances – net		1,364,169,552
Equity Investments		5,500,100
Bank Premises, Furniture Fixtures & Equipment – net		32,643,461
Real and Other Properties Owned/Acquired		25,126,400
Other Assets		124,761,046
TOTAL ASSETS	**P**	**7,076,317,292**
LIABILITIES		
Demand Deposits	P	1,020,325,775
Time Deposits		2,383,251,963
Due to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas		1,049,089
Outstanding Checks/Payment Orders		7,998,766
Bills Payable		782,820,867
Other Liabilities		246,232,215
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**P**	**4,441,678,675**
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS		
Capital Stock	P	1,850,000,000
Capital Stock Deposit		315,000,000
Surplus		466,204,821
Other Capital Accounts		3,433,796
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**P**	**2,634,638,617**
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	**P**	**7,076,317,292**
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS		
Spot/Future Exchange Bought	P	5,277,185,374
Spot/Future Exchange Sold		5,440,943,230
Items Held for Safekeeping/Collaterals		4,816,547,823
Items Held in Trust		141,990,293
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	**P**	**15,676,666,720**

OTHER INFORMATION*
Compliance with Magna Carta Law:

Prescribed Ratio of Compliance	6% for Small Enterprises	2% for Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	6.1420%	2.469%

Amount of Non-Performing Loans	P	-
Ratio of Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio		0.0%
Amount of Classified Loans and Other Risk Assets	P	-
General provision for loan losses	P	22,316,567
Specific provision for loan losses	P	-
Return on Equity (ROE)		3.82%
Amount of DOSRI loans/advances	P	43,958,688
Ratio of DOSRI loans/advances to total loan portfolio		1.46%
Amount of Past Due DOSRI loans/advances	P	-
Ratio of past due DOSRI loans/adv to total loan portfolio		-

*Amended to conform with Circular No. 208 dated August 17, 1999 and Memorandum to all Banks dated November 29, 1999.

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CITY OF MAKATI)S.S

We, **Vicente B. Castillo** and **Agnes B. Santos** of the above-mentioned bank do solemnly swear that all matters set forth in the above statement of condition are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Sgd.) AGNES B. SANTOS
Financial Controller

(Sgd) VICENTE B. CASTILLO
President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of October 2002 affiants exhibiting to me their Residence Certificate No. 11973021, issued at Makati City on April 5, 2002 and Resident Certificate No. 09751601 issued at Pasig City on January 7, 2002, respectively.

Doc. No. 449
Book No. XXIII
Page No. 91
Series of 2002

(Sgd) Oscar T. Zaldivar
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Fed may need to cut rates, US growth fragile

PARIS—The US Federal Reserve may need to ease monetary policy in the near term to support a fragile recovery in the world's biggest economy, the OECD said on Thursday.

In a report titled an Economic Survey of the United States, the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development forecast the US economy would grow by nearly 2.5 percent this year and 2.75 percent in 2003.

"However, downside risks remain," the OECD said in the report. "The recovery that began early this year is still fragile."

The organization's forecast for growth next year only slightly above this year's rate of increase represents a marked downward revision from its last prediction in its April Economic Outlook, in which it saw 2003 growth at 3.5 percent.

The report came a day after US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill said the US economy was progressing well but that it was uneven across sectors. Evidence pointed to a "bumpy-road recovery," he said.

Weak stock markets, the risk of further oil price rises and a slow improvement in the labor market were the main threats to the recovery, the OECD said.

Low inflation meant the Federal Reserve could afford to wait before shifting away from its accommodative monetary policy stance, which has seen it lower its key interest rate to a four-decade low 1.75 percent.

"Given the marked deceleration in inflation and the tepid recent pace of final demand growth, the authorities would seem to have room to wait until the recovery is more clearly established before shifting to a more neutral stance," the OECD said.

"The authorities could conceivably even need to ease policy further in the short run, should the recovery falter or financial markets not find their footing," it added.

The benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average stock index has fallen to its lowest level in four years in recent weeks, its weakness exacerbated by the risk of war in Iraq and heightened uncertainty about the prospects for the US economy.

The US central bank's Federal Open Market Committee voted by 10-2 on Sept. 24 to keep rates on hold. Analysts said the split vote, the first departure from FOMC unanimity on rates this year, signaled the chances for a rate cut were increasing. *Reuters*

A CHINESE worker cleans the floor at the lobby of a shopping mall in Shanghai. China's economy grew at a well above-target 7.9 percent in the first nine months of 2002 as against the same period last year, the government announced on Wednesday. AFP

India to bring down tariff rates to push trade with Southeast Asia

NEW DELHI, India—India plans to lower tariffs on goods and services to boost trade with Southeast Asian nations, a senior Indian official said.

"India's image as a closed, slow moving economy is changing and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations wants to capitalize on our geographical proximity," Rajiv Sikri, a senior official with India's Foreign Ministry, said in an interview Wednesday with Dow Jones Newswires.

Sikri said India's proposed first-ever participation in an Asean leaders' summit in Cambodia next month shows the importance the Southeast Asian grouping attaches to strengthening trade ties with India.

Sikri's comments came on the eve of an India-Southeast Asia business summit, which opened Thursday to discuss ways to build stronger trade ties and expand economic and political influence outside the region.

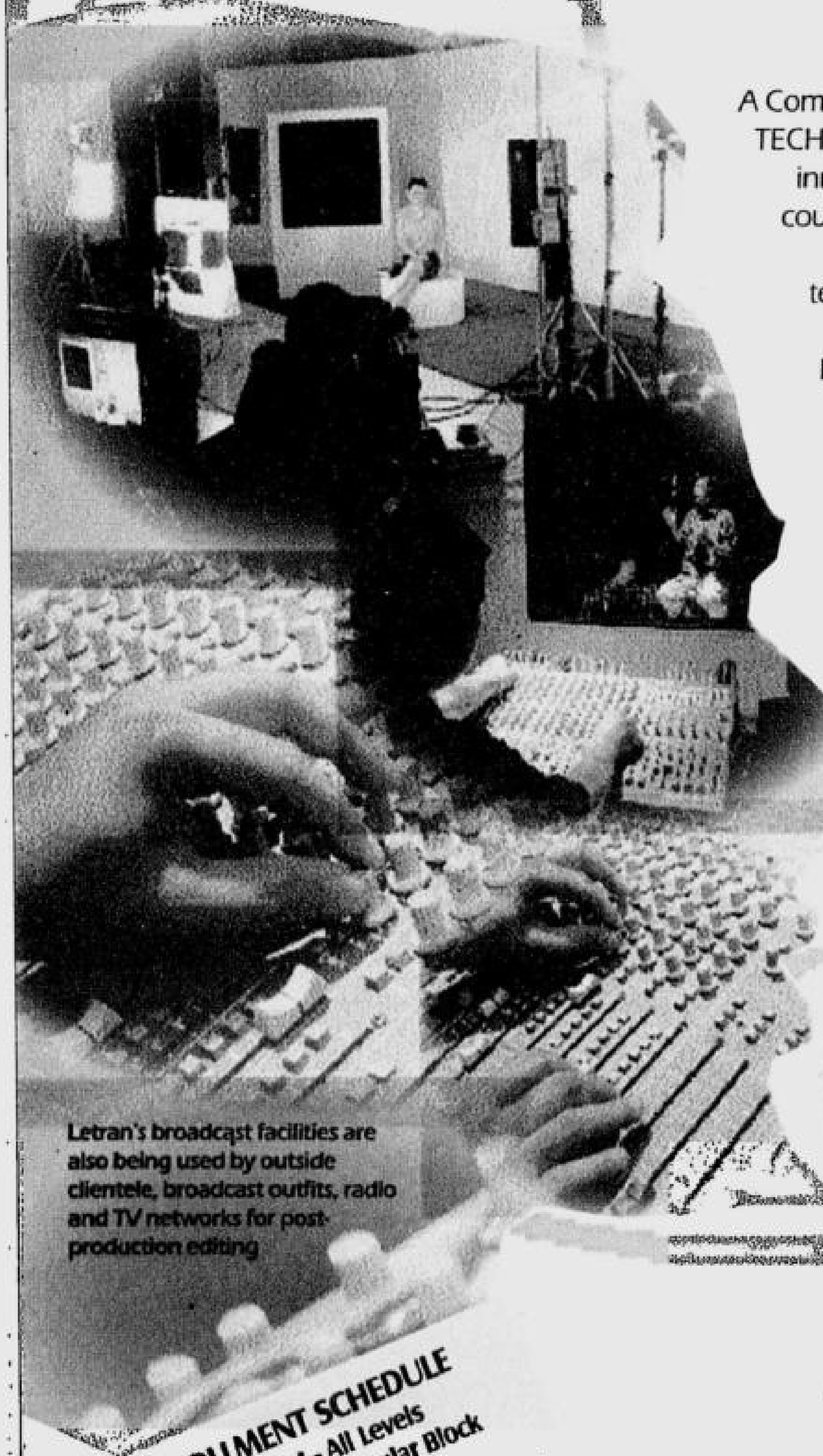
India announced a "look East" policy nearly 10 years ago to improve trade with Asian nations, which mostly concentrated on the United States and Europe.

The policy has largely failed because of the slow pace of reforms to open the Indian economy.

India recognizes that trade with the 10 Asean nations is falling far short of its potential, Sikri said, adding that India in turn received little direct investment from Southeast Asian neighbors.

India's exports to Asean nations totaled $3.2 billion in 2001-2002, accounting for nearly 7 percent of total exports; while Asean member-states shipped around $6 billion in goods and services to India in the same period, according to a recent study on India-Asean trade by the international consulting firm McKinsey & Co. *AP*

TALKING TECHNOLOGY



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Japan steelmakers to cut China exports

TOKYO—Japan's major steelmakers plan to cut exports to China by 30-40 percent in the October-December period from the previous quarter to avoid trade friction with Beijing, industry officials said on Thursday.

Brisk sales of steel used to make cars and IT products in China helped boost Japanese steelmakers' profits in the first half of the current business year.

The makers, however, have been voluntarily reducing exports since around July after China imposed emergency curbs on imports, hoping this would persuade China not to adopt full-scale curbs.

China is Japan's second-biggest export market after South Korea.

Nippon Steel Corp., Japan's biggest steelmaker, said it would reduce exports to China by about 30 percent in the October-December quarter from the previous three months.

The other major makers are expected to follow suit.

"Our understanding is that every major company will cut exports to China by 30 to 40 percent, depending on products, in the current quarter," a spokesperson at Nisshin Steel Co. Ltd., Japan's sixth-largest maker, said.

Third-ranked Kawasaki Steel Corp. said its exports to Asian markets will be slashed by 15 percent, or more than 100,000 tons, in the current quarter.

In May, China slapped provisional tariffs of up to 26 percent on imports of nine different steel products following the US government's decision in March to impose "safeguard" tariffs of up to 30 percent on steel imports.

The US tariffs had little impact on Japan's steelmakers and Washington has since exempted hundreds of products.

China's temporary import curbs will expire in November and if the country imposes full-scale import curbs, quotas are expected to be based on each nation's past exports to China.

According to government statistics, Japanese steelmakers' exports to China jumped 83 percent year-on-year in the April-August period to 3.33 million tons. *Reuters*

LG swings back to net profit in Q3

SEOUL—LG Electronics Inc. said on Thursday it returned to profit in the third-quarter from a year ago, aided by strong sales of mobile phones, displays and media products.

But its net income was only around a third of the second-quarter's net profit and toward the lower end of analyst expectations for the global manufacturer of appliances, computers and telecom equipment.

"Tougher competition in the PC (personal computer) market hampered LG's third-quarter performance compared with the previous quarter," said Bae Sung-chul, an analyst at Daewoo Securities. "But its mobile sector remained robust."

LG posted a 116.1-billion won ($93.86 million) net profit in the third-quarter, bouncing back from a 417.5-billion won loss a year ago, which had reflected investment losses at affiliates, including Dacom Corp.

The latest figure compared with a 340.5-billion won net profit in the second quarter. Analysts had expected a number in the range of 85.5 billion won and 202.8 billion won.

"Our mobile business realized a high growth at home and abroad up until the third quarter," Kwon Young-soo, a senior finance executive at LG Electronics, told investors.

"Also, display, media and appliances fared well on the domestic market and saw margins expand."

LG's shares closed up 2.8 percent at 34,350 won, outpacing a 1.32-percent gain in the broader market index.

The electronics company said third-quarter sales were 4.4 trillion won compared to 3.86 trillion won a year ago, while operating profit was 190.1 billion won, versus 154 billion won a year ago.

Sales of home appliances, such as refrigerators and air-conditioners, rose 17.2 percent to 1.26 trillion won from a year before, while display and media products, such as televisions, PCs, monitors and information technology-related devices, were up 14.4 percent to 1.93 trillion won. *Reuters*

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Cuban native named 2002 World Food Prize laureate

TORONTO—Dr. Pedro Sanchez, a native Cuban and graduate of Cornell University in the United States, has been selected to receive the $250,000 World Food Prize in 2002.

Sanchez's selection was announced Aug. 11 by Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation, at the opening plenary session of the XXVI International Horticultural Congress in Toronto, Canada. Quinn noted, "This is an historic occasion as it appears that the World Food Prize is the highest scientific honor ever presented to a native of Cuba.

"As this award is being presented in the 100th year of Cuban independence, Cubans everywhere have occasion to express great pride in Sanchez's remarkable accomplishments," added Quinn.

Quinn remarked that Sanchez had been selected for his groundbreaking contributions to reducing hunger and malnutrition throughout the developing world by transforming depleted tropical soils into productive agricultural lands. As the leader of the North Carolina State University Rice Research Program in the 1970s, Sanchez helped guide Peru to dramatically improve its national food security, achieving self-sufficiency in rice production within three years, and achieving among the highest rice yields in the world. Next, Sanchez developed a comprehensive approach to soil management which enabled 30 million hectares of marginal Brazilian land, known as the Cerrado, to be brought into production—the single largest increase in arable agricultural land in the last half century.

Most recently, Sanchez served as director general of the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (Icraf), a Future Harvest center of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in Nairobi. There, Sanchez has led the scientific research effort to provide smallholder farmers in Africa and Southeast Asia with the means to replenish crucial nutrients in exhausted soils, through the development and promotion of agroforestry. The practice of planting trees adjacent to crops has provided nearly 150,000 farmers in Africa with a way to fertilize their soils inexpensively and naturally, without relying on costly chemical fertilizers.

Quinn added "Sanchez is also being honored for having played a critical role in establishing real alternatives to slash-and-burn farming, which has destroyed millions of acres of rainforest, as well as his work in driving the international effort to establish agroforestry as a means of mitigating global warming, by removing millions of tons of CO2 from the air.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug, the founder of the World Food Prize, remarked, "Sanchez's achievement gives hope that the Green Revolution can finally be extended to Africa." Reflecting his enormous contributions, Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, has honored Sanchez by appointing him chair of the UN Task Force on World Hunger as part of the UN Global Millennium Development Project.

Sanchez will receive his award in Ames, Iowa at a special Laureate Award Ceremony at CY Stephens Auditorium on the campus of Iowa State University on Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m. (Iowa time).

LIFEBUOY-RED CROSS PARTNERSHIP

Unilever Philippines marketing manager for home care Benjie Yap and Philippine National Red Cross secretary general Lourdes Loyola renew the memorandum of agreement between Lifebuoy Family Health Protection Soap and Red Cross. On their 2nd year of partnership, Lifebuoy and Red Cross reiterate their commitment to assisting the Filipino people in the areas of community health and social services. Lifebuoy's guaranteed germ protection is trusted by the Red Cross, the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), the Philippine Hospital Association (PHA) and the Philippine Public Health Association (PPHA). Yap and Loyola are flanked by other Lifebuoy and Red Cross representatives.

Germalin PAL gold awardee

PHILIPPINE Airlines, in recognition of the valuable contribution in the growth of its cargo shipments this year, distributed awards to deserving cargo agents. Germalin Enterprises Inc. is again the recipient of a gold award in the domestic category. Catalina C. Feliciano, its vice president, received the award in its behalf.

FELICIANO

Enhanced zed services via Smart's 64K Super SIM

YOU ARE an executive with a busy schedule and you want to get traffic reports everyday at 7 a.m. on the dot. You are a gaming aficionado and you want to beat everyone on the mobile online games. Or you and your barkada want to be "in-the-know" of the latest movies all the time.

All these scenarios and more became a reality during the end of 2000 and all through your Smart mobile phone.

When Smart Communications Inc., in cooperation with Finland's Sonera zed, launched Smart zed, the first functional mobile portal for wireless services in the country, it introduced to the Philippine texting community the ease of acquiring data and information services through the convenient "click and text" using keywords.

However, with 200 services rolled out, there came a need for Smart to innovate and bring the word "personalization" to a higher level.

With the recent launch of its Smart 64K Super SIM, the country's leading wireless services provider has upped the ante with enhanced features for Smart zed.

What used to be a tedious process of memorizing a list of keywords in order to access your favorite zed services, now it is easier with an easy-to-use click and browse menu of the preferred services that fit your lifestyle.

So, what's on the businessman's zed menu is different from the gaming aficionado's. The executive's menu may have news, traffic updates, forex rates, NBA results, weather, golf game results, and for fun, ringtones and logos.

Our gaming guy, on the other hand, can have on his zed menu trivia game, anime, movie information, chat, celebrity pals, news and ringtones.

But both of them use the same 64K Super SIM and the same mobile portal zed.

The best part of it is you can download new services over the air, tailor-make your menu with just what you want and use.

Tired of seeing unwanted items in your SIM card because you barely use them? You can deactivate the service with just a click of the menu.

With Smart zed enhancements using Smart's 64K Super SIM, all these are possible so you can make your life more convenient and fun.

PLANNING AHEAD WITH LOYOLA TIMEPLAN

Howard Halili bought his Timeplan, a product of Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc., February 2001 with a total gross price of P456,300 in preparation for the future of his family. Unfortunately, in October that year, 8 months after purchase of his Timeplan, he lost his life in a car accident. Maricar Halili, Howard's wife and beneficiary, received from LPCI the Term Life and Accidental Death Benefit insurance features of the plan amounting to P912,600. The plans have been considered fully paid, and upon maturity Maricar shall also receive P1,409,600. Indeed, Howard made a wise decision when he made LPCI his partner for a lifetime. Monica is shown receiving the proceeds of the claim from LPCI SVP and chief finance officer Manny Esquivel, as (from left) fellow SVP and chief finance officer Nieves Aquino, sales manager Marife Jasmines, and group sales manager Emma Marquez witness the turnover.

'RIZAL TRAVELER'S GUIDE' LAUNCHED

Rizal Tourism Council president Mar B. Bacani, together with Rizal painter Rafael Pacheco, presented to Lani Mercado the 'Rizal Traveler's Guide', the first brochure about the province. A project of the Tourism Council, the event was held recently at Club Manila East in Taytay, Rizal. Shown with Lani Mercado at the launching are the officers of Rizal Tourism Organizations, from left, Jose Suva and Lito Naidas, secretary and president, respectively, of the Resort Owners Association of Rizal, Boy Mercado, auditor, Rizal Tourism Council, Reu Deliota, president of the Taytay Tourism Council and VP for marketing operations of Club Manila East, Bacani, Col. Andrew Nocon, chair, Southern Tagalog Tourism Council, and Eliseo Borja, chief, Rizal Provincial Tourism. The 'Rizal Traveler's Guide' is a series publication of Voyages and Vocations Inc.

Marriage Encounter weekend

IS YOUR marriage not the way you know it ought to be? Or you want to strengthen your marriage's already firm ground? If your answer is yes, the Galilee Catholic Charismatic Community is inviting you to take part in a Marriage Encounter weekend from Oct. 25 to 27. The retreat will be held at the St. Charles Borromeo Retreat House along the Sta. Rosa Highway near the Tagaytay City-Silang Boundary. Led by a priest, the ME weekend is a live-in activity for couples. The ME weekend shows couples how to build trust for each other, and encourages them to maintain open communications with each other. Other couples will share how they were able to overcome serious marriage-threatening problems. For more information, call Cris/Cora at 0917-8403052, Danny/Jingle at 0917-8427896, Fred/Carleen at 0918-9301763 or Jess/Ruby at 0917-9810859.

CDAP-organized meet

THE REPRESENTATIVES of organizations of people trained in Germany who have returned to their countries are currently meeting here in Manila until Oct. 19. Many specialists and experts from India, Mongolia, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines received their training in Germany and now occupy positions in the economy, administration and academe. The meet in Manila is the 2nd of its kind and is supposed to strengthen the Asian network among the 9 countries. The host organization in Manila is the Carl Duisberg Association of the Philippines, which organized this meet with the AGEF from Berlin. It is being financed by Germany's Central Office for Employment (ZAF) with funds from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

G-nie's digital photo exhibit

DANCE With Me, a digital photography exhibit by G-nie Arambulo with Ballet Manila, is being held until Oct. 19 in connection with the inauguration of the new Aliw Theater at Star City, Roxas Boulevard. In celebration of her 10th year as a photographer, G-nie is sharing her interests, skill and life through images expressing her concepts of dance. This event is the first one-woman exhibit showcasing photographs done using a high-resolution digital camera. Dance With Me is also made possible through the help of couple Fred and Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, Ballet Manila, Concepto Prints, Apple Philippines, and Adphoto and Art of Light Inc., where G-nie works as a full-time photographer.

Jewelry appraisal at TLRC

A SEMINAR on Jewelry Appraisal and Pawnshop Operations is set on Oct. 19 and 20, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center. This seminar is intended for would-be entrepreneurs seeking to acquire skills in testing gold and diamonds, identifying gemstones, and learning the business aspects of running a pawnshop. Lectures include government laws and implementing guidelines relating to pawnshop operation. Hands-on training covers determining genuine stones, appraising gold and diamonds, and plating gold jewelry. Participants should bring a pocket calculator. For inquiries, call TLRC at 633-5709, 633-6728 or at 637-4108 to 12, local 605.

BITS Clips

Philippine Army Band plays 100

ON OCT. 15, 1902, the Philippine Army Band, then known as the Philippine Constabulary Band, was formed and had its first public appearance two months later at the Rizal Park. The Philippine Army Band, now under the baton of 1LT Delfin Miranda II, celebrates its 100th year with a series of concerts ("Serenata ng Banda") at the Flower Clock in Rizal Park on Saturdays (Oct. 19 and 26) at 4:30 p.m. These celebrations are made possible with the support of the Philippine Army. The Philippine Army Band was founded by Lt. Walter H. Loving and came to be known then as "the principal military band in the entire Pacific Area".

Read to Lead Readshow

READ to Lead, the reading advocacy campaign of Pfizer's Visine Eye Drops, National Book Store, and Powerbooks, is bringing its Readshow to the Grand Atrium of Robinsons Place Manila this Saturday, Oct. 19, at 2 p.m. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza will talk about how reading plays a part in his life as a public servant. Museo Pambata president Nina Lim-Yuson, mother former social welfare Secretary Estefania Aldaba-Lim, and son Zak, will share how love of books has been handed down the line. Band Mojofly will not only perform live but will also sing praises for books and how they influence their music. Morning show host and youth commissioner Bambam Aquino, and writer-model Lexi Revilla Schulze are the hosts of the Readshows. Read to Lead aims to create and increase awareness of the benefits and importance of reading.

Portraiture at SPPP

PHOTOGRAPHY aficionados who want to learn more can take the advanced photo workshops organized by the Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (SPPP) under its program Basic...and Beyond. Portrait photography will be on Oct. 19 and 20, while Light Painting Photography and Product Illustration will be on Oct. 26 and 27. Supporting SPPP are Fujifilm, Ynzal Marketing, Visio Lights, Canon-Super East Asia Enterprise, and the Philippine Tourism Authority. Lecturers are Ibarra Deri, SPPP president, Ador Pamintuan, and other guest lecturers. Interested participants can register at Fujifilm Image Service Center, SM Megamall, care of Dionie/Marsha, or at the SPPP during workshops days or call 0917-399-4437, 0917-4118339, fax 801-3786.

Angels in our midst

SOMETIMES, even your smallest acts of kindness can work wonders in the lives of others. Visit the Angels Christmas Bazaar to be held on Oct. 19, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club to shop and help fund the charity projects of the Rotary Club of Makati East and the Bukas Sarili Foundation. Shop from a variety of brand name garments, children's clothes and toys, gourmet delicacies and home furnishings, and help support the worthy recipients of its medical and dental missions, PGH charity ward rounds, feeding and scholarship programs. All proceeds of the event go to the charity projects. Raffle prizes will be given away throughout the day. Credit card services are available.

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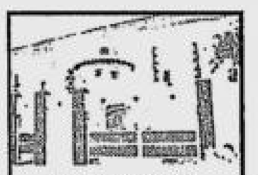

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LEGAL NOTICE

The estate of the deceased **ANGELA SONGCO VDA DE ISIP & RICARDO S ISIP** has been extrajudicially settled by the heirs under Doc No. 1 Page No. 94 Series of 2002 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Daniel Balanoba.
PDI- October 4, 11 & 18, 2002

Notice is given that the estate of the late spouses Arsenio & Juanita Jocson was extrajudicially settled by heirs per Doc.# 89123, Page# 103, Book 1, Series 2001 under Notary Public Tami M. Chan of San Francisco CAL., U.S.A. Consul, J. Eduardo Malaya (PDI-Oct 4, 11 & 18, 2002)

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FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 21
IMUS, CAVITE

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR
THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF
SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT WITH
APPROVAL OF PROPOSED
REHABILITATION PLAN

SEC CASE NO. 023-02

TOWN AND COUNTRY ENTERPRISES, INC.,
Petitioner.
x-------------------------------------x

STAY ORDER

This is a petition for the declaration of state of suspension of payments with approval of proposed rehabilitation plan filed by petitioner Town and Country Enterprises, Inc., a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines with principal place of business at No. 57 Don Placido Campos Ave., Dasmariñas, Cavite, praying that (1) upon filing of this petition, the corresponding Stay Order be issued pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation, and particularly directing the banks to desist from depositing all checks of the petitioners that were issued to the creditors including but not limited to the checks issued as double collateral and amortization checks issued and thereafter, calling for a meeting of the creditors and the publication thereof and that (2) after due proceedings as mandated by law, judgment be rendered declaring the petitioner in a state of suspension of payments and approving the Proposed Rehabilitation Plan and appointing a Rehabilitation Receiver.

Petitioner alleges that it is engaged in the business of real estate development; that petitioner likewise develops subdivisions and operates resort facilities and dormitories; that it started its operation in 1984; that towards the end of the construction period in 1997, the unforeseen economic disaster hit Asia; that Philippine peso devaluation and high interest rates destabilized the whole Philippine business environment which caused the petitioner to suffer from (a) paying interest rate at a very high rate; (b) low occupancy rate due to the reservation of business establishments in expansion due to economic crisis; (c) aborted transactions and unrealized sales; d) failure to collect from debtors on time and (e) bad business climate and peace and order in the Philippines; that as a result of the crisis, the loan obligation ballooned because of high interest rate; that out of the consolidated current loan obligation in the amount of P20,859,129.00, in which P6,844,079.00 was from interest charges; that the original loan is only P14,074,701.00 but petitioner has also issued six (6) checks to its creditor bank in payment of its obligation; that as a consequence, the management of the petitioner foresee its inability to meet the immediate obligations as they fall due on the agreed schedule as a result of which complications and problems would definitely arise that would impair and affect the operation of the petitioner and its effort to rehabilitate its business; that Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. have already initiated foreclosure proceedings against petitioner; that if the operation of the petitioner would be hampered and affected by the consequential moves of the its creditors who are not paid on time, it would result in a more difficult process for the settlement of those obligations already maturing and which would render impossible the payment of all other existing obligations with the government, creditor banks and other private persons or corporations; and that despite the foregoing, the management of the petitioner still foresee a very good future ahead if only petitioner will be given a "breathing spell" from its immediate obligations.

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, a STAY ORDER is hereby issued pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation as follows:

(a) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or otherwise, against the petitioner, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the debtor, including the Petition for Issuance of Writ of Possession of Real Properties filed by Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and docketed as LRC Case No. 2128-02 before this Court;

(b) Prohibiting the petitioner from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of its business;

(c) Prohibiting the petitioner from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of the filing of this petition;

(d) Prohibiting the petitioner's supplier of goods or services from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the petitioner makes payments of the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this stay order;

(e) Directing the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this stay order.

Mr. Villamor Hilario Aguilar, Owner/General Manager of V.H. Aguilar Design & Construction is hereby appointed as Rehabilitation Receiver and is hereby directed to assume his position as such upon the taking of an oath before the Branch Clerk of this Court and after posting of a bond in the amount of P1,000,000.00 executed in favor of petitioner Town and Country Enterprises, Inc. to guarantee the faithful discharge of his duties as Rehabilitation Receiver and the Orders of this Court.

The petitioner is hereby directed to publish this Stay Order in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks.

All creditors and all interested parties, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, are hereby directed to file and serve on the petitioner, Town and Country Enterprises, Inc., their verified comment on or opposition to this petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing. Failure of the creditors and all interested parties, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, to file their verified comment on or opposition will bar them from participating in this proceedings.

Within such time as to enable them to file their verified comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare them for the initial hearing of his case, all creditors and all interested parties, including the Securities and Exchange Commission, are hereby directed to secure from this Court copies of the petition and its annexes.

Finally, the initial hearing of this case is hereby set on November 26, 2002 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning.

SO ORDERED.

Imus, Cavite, October 8, 2002.

(Sgd.) NORBERTO J. QUISUMBING, JR.
Judge

(PDI--Oct. 18 & 25, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **GERALDINE YRASTORZA DABA** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **CARMEN GERALDINE** to **GERALDINE** in the birth certificate of **CARMEN GERALDINE SALCEDO YRASTORZA** who was born on 15 July 1961 at Perpetual Succour Hospital, Cebu City and whose parents are **CARLOS TORRES YRASTORZA** and **ERLINDA ROA SALCEDO**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than 25 October 2002.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - Oct. 18 & 23, 2002)

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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me, though he should die, will come to life..." John 11:25-26

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED

ANTHONY JOHN "TONY" DI FILIPPO

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 7, 2002
in Houston, Texas, U.S.A.

His bereaved wife **Susan Suarez Di Flippo**; children **Liza Nadine, Gia Mae** and **Tony Crabtree**, and **Kevin Ray**; brother **Ted**; sister **Lucia**; brothers-in-law **Boy, Jesse Jr., Mike, Rupert, Albert, Robert** and their spouses, nephews and nieces, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains were cremated in Houston, Texas last October 11, 2002.

Those who wish to condole directly with the immediate family may reach them at 4807 Sanford, Houston, Texas, 77035, U.S.A.

41st Death Anniversary
of the
LATE PRESIDENT

SERGIO OSMEÑA, SR.

(1878-1961)

Masses will be offered at the following Churches on 19 October 2002:

Santuario de San Antonio Parish *Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish Church *Pasay Road, Makati City*	6:00 p.m.
Malate Catholic Church *Malate, Manila*	6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish Church *Bel-Air Village, Makati City*	6:00 p.m.
Basilica Minore of Immaculate Conception Cathedral *Malolos, Bulacan*	6:00 a.m.
St. James the Apostle Parish Church *Plaridel, Bulacan*	6:00 a.m.
San Isidro Labrador Parish Church *Pullilan, Bulacan*	6:00 a.m.
Basilica del Sto. Niño *Magallanes Street, Cebu City*	6:00 a.m.
Redemptorist Church *Cebu City*	6:00 a.m.
Sto. Rosario Parish *P. del Rosario Street, Cebu City*	6:30 a.m.
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral *Cebu City*	6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish *Cebu City*	5:30 p.m.
St. Therese Parish *Lahug, Cebu City*	6:00 p.m.
San Roque Parish Church *Wireless Mandaue City*	6:00 p.m.

Readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Pasay Road, Makati City, Tel. 894-5932 to 34
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Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila; Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
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CLASSIFIEDS

COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
THE PROBATE AND FAMILY
COURT

HAMPDEN Division
Docket No. 02A0090AC1

In the Matter of WILLIAM ROBERT RODRIGUEZ, minor of SPRINGFIELD
In the Country of HAMPDEN

CITATION

M.G.L. c. 210 s6

To DANILO ESCOLANO of QUEZON CITY in the PHILIPPINES, and/or persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Social Services of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by WILLIE MILES JOHNSON of SPRINGFIELD in the Country of HAMPDEN and MARIA THERESA JOHNSON of SPRINGFIELD in the County of HAMPDEN praying for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to WILLIAM RODRIGUEZ JOHNSON.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT SPRINGFIELD ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON (10:00 AM) ON NOVEMBER 22, 2002.

WITNESS, HON. DAVID G. SACKS, ESQUIRE, First Justice of said Court at SPRINGFIELD this day, September 4, 2002.

Johanna P. Moriarty, Jr.
Register of Probate

(PDI--Oct. 18, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Procurement Service (PS) invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the various IT Equipment with Local Area Network requirements of DSWD Regions III and VII. The approved budget for the contract is P 2,500,000.00 per region.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on the following dates and venues:

1. For DSWD Region III Requirements
   October 25, 2002 - PS Conference Room
   2nd Floor, PS Complex
   Cristobal St., Paco, Manila
2. For DSWD Region VII Requirements
   October 28, 2002 - Department of Budget and Management R-VII
   Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

The bid documents shall be available starting **October 11, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) per Bid Document at the following offices:

For DSWD Region III Requirements:
1. Purchasing Division
   Procurement Service
   Cristobal St., Paco, Manila

For DSWD Region VII Requirements:
2. DBM - Region VII
   Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

The bidders for the Region III Requirements shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned Manila address while the bidders for the Region VII Requirements shall submit their envelopes at the above address in Cebu City.

Bidders are required to submit ISO 9001 or ISO 9002 certification from manufacturing facility.

Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on November 12, 2002 at 9:30 A.M.

For more information, please call the PS-Purchasing Division at Telephone Nos. (02) 563-9374 or 563-9402 or DBM Region VII at Telephone Nos. (032) 2561962 or (032) 256-1964.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--Oct. 11 & 18, 2002)

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment

POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City
P.O. Box 4051/Fax No. 722-1159
Tel. 722-1142 to 99

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 15
Series of 2002

To : All Concerned Licensed Agencies Deploying Performing Artists, Authorized Training Centers, Entertainment Industry Associates and Overseas Performing Artists (OPAs)

Subject : Unclaimed Artist Record Books (ARBs)

Further to Memorandum Circular No. 15, Series of 2001, this Office enjoins all concerned overseas performing artists (OPAs) to claim their respective ARBs which they applied for and/or obtained from POEA not later than **October 31, 2002.** Beyond this date, the same will be turned over to TESDA.

Accordingly, all unclaimed/expired ARBs within three (3) years from the date of issuance and publication of this Circular shall be subject to proper disposition in accordance with the existing guidelines on General Record Disposition Schedule (GRDS).

All licensed agencies deploying OPAs, accredited training centers and industry associations are hereby requested to advise their concerned OPAs and assist in the dissemination of this information.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

(Sgd.) **ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ**
Administrator

(PDI - Oct. 18, 2002)

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Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID
AD NO. PD2002-23

Pre-bid Conference : October 25, 2002 - 2:00 P.M.
Opening Date : November 11, 2002 - 9:00 A.M
E-Bidding Date : November 22, 2002 - 2:00 A.M.

2002-23 JOB ORDER: Installation and Supply of Labor in Fire Suppression System at Storage Bldg. 1st and 2nd Floors, NPC-OBC.

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **October 11-23, 2002** at the Accreditation, Bidding and IT Services, Procurement Division, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P100.00 which is non-refundable and presentation of TIN/supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents **mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 A.M.** For inquiries please call no. 921-25-74. Last day of issuance of bidding documents **October 23, 2002.**

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

PBAC-BIDDING FOR THE INSTALLATION & SUPPLY OF LABOR IN FIRE SUPRESSION SYSTEM AT STORAGE BLDG. 1st & 2nd FLOORS, NPC-OBC
NPC-OBC (Head Office), Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI--Oct. 11 & 18, 2002)

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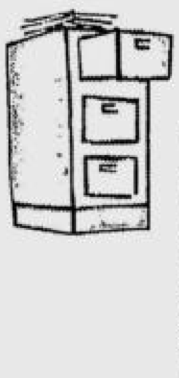

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BUSINESS

Manulife confirms buying CBA's RP unit

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE unit of Manulife Financial Corp. said yesterday that it was acquiring Commonwealth Bank of Australia's life insurance division in the country, CMG, to boost its local operations.

"The Philippines is an important market for Manulife Financial in Asia, and we have long sought a strategic opportunity to expand our presence here," Manulife general manager for Asia Vic Apps told a news conference.

Manulife officials declined to give the value of the transaction pending regulatory approval but said it represented the largest so far in the industry.

Manulife Philippines currently ranks as the fourth largest life insurance company in the country in terms of premium income. It has an asset base of P6 billion.

CMG ranks as the 10th largest in terms of sales with an asset base of P1.9 billion. Its total premium net income was estimated at around P550 million at the end of 2001.

Manulife said the purchase of CMG's life insurance, pension and education plan would increase its share of total life insurance premiums in the Philippines to 6.6 percent.

Manulife Philippines is wholly owned by Manulife Financial Corp., Canada's second largest insurer, which manages C$139.8 billion in funds.

CBA, Australia's second largest bank, acquired CMG Philippines, then worth about A$20 million, when it bought Colonial Ltd. for A$9.5 billion in 2000.

Regulators are expected to approve Manulife Philippines' acquisition of CMG next month.

Manulife general manager for the Philippines Renato Vergel de Dios said that the acquisition would add 60,000 policies to Manulife's existing policy base of 125,000.

De Dios said the acquisition of CMG would also allow Manulife to build its agency force to a sufficient number that could make it one of the country's top three life insurers.

"You can't become a major player in this country without 3,000 (productive) agents," he said.

CMG has between 1,700 and 1,800 agents, while Manulife has roughly 900.

"Given the situation, we see no need to tie up with a bank," De Dios said.

PhilRice, Pioneer Hi-Bred in deal to produce high-yield rice variety

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Rice Research Institute and Pioneer Hi-Bred Philippines Inc. have agreed to produce a hybrid rice variety that can augment the income of each of the country's rice farmers by P6,000 per hectare.

Under a memorandum signed Wednesday evening, PhilRice agreed to provide Philippine Hi-Bred with materials for seed production.

Philippine Hi-Bred will then produce "Mestizo" hybrid rice seeds using its own investments in time for next year's dry season.

Apart from giving farmers additional income, the government's hybrid rice program also aims to ease the country's dependence on rice imports and generate more jobs.

"We believe our company can make a good contribution to the government's program for increasing our local rice production with this technology, which will significantly help reduce our dependence on rice imports," Philippine Hi-Bred country manager Jet Parma said in a statement issued yesterday.

The Mestizo hybrid rice variety was first released in the Philippines in 1997 through the efforts of PhilRice.

It is currently being promoted by PhilRice and the National Seed Industry Council because of its high average yield at 6.3 metric tons per hectare and its good grain characteristics.

Some farmers have even claimed that the Mestizo hybrid rice variety can yield up to 10.4 metric tons per hectare during the dry season.

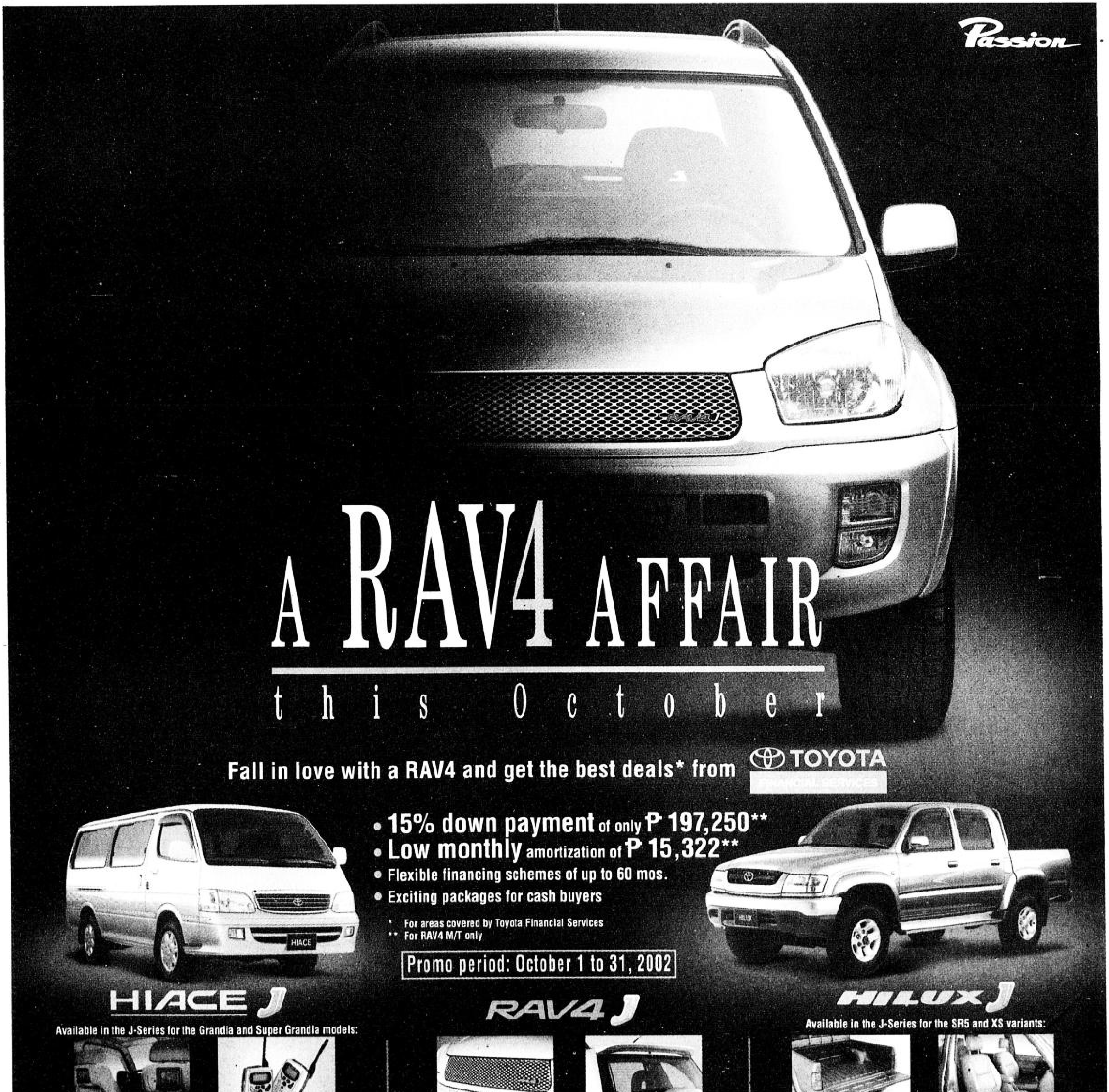
The Mestizo is soft when cooked, aromatic and is comparable with the popular "IR64" variety in terms of eating quality.

The IR64 is the most widely grown rice variety in the tropics.

It has good grain characteristics, including those related to yield, plant architecture, grain quality and tolerance to various diseases and pests.

"This venture calls for creating awareness on the real benefits of hybrid rice for our farmers and, at the same time, educating them on how to increase their rice yields and income by utilizing the technology. I believe we are ready to enter this new undertaking, which would greatly benefit our rice farmers," Parma said.

Philippine Hi-Bred, a subsidiary of international biotechnology firm DuPont, is the world's leading source of customized solutions for farmers, livestock producers, and grain and oilseed products.



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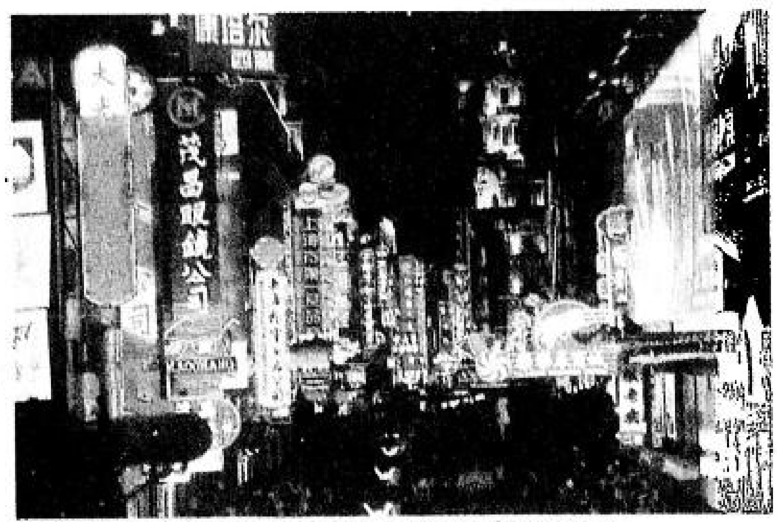


WITH over a billion people, China is the market to go to.

To do business in China, hire a China-based lawyer and accountant

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN China opened its doors to foreign investments, investors immediately flocked to China to take advantage of its huge market of over 1 billion people, depriving badly needed money away from developing nations like the Philippines.

But if there is crisis, there is also an opportunity for Filipino businessmen who are ready to take advantage of the ably good business prospects in China, particularly those who want to expand their franchise network.

China is a good investment prospect for franchisers because retail sales are growing at double-digit levels, said Wilson Fung, business development manager of Global Sources during the recently concluded 10th Philippine International Franchise Conference. Fung heads the sales efforts for technical exhibitions and conferences produced by Global Sources, most of which are held in China.

Fung said in his presentation that China today is open to franchise concepts because the middle class is expanding, disposable income is ris-

TO DO/C2

Match your marketing line with the brand experience

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

TIME was when marketing people relied too heavily on their advertising agencies to produce glitzy copy that can attract the customers to the retail shelves. Never mind if consumers eventually found the product less exciting in reality than on TV and print.

But technology and globalization changed the face of doing business and consumers have become exacting and resourceful.

Today, consumers demand the brand's promise to be carried out to the last detail by manufacturers and service providers. Likewise, marketers have learned to break new ground by letting consumers live the brand. Nonetheless, enabling customers to live the brand can only happen when the following elements are present and are driving the marketing process.

1. Provide a differentiating experience with the brand. Marketers must give consumers a reason to prefer their brand over others.

While a unique and compelling advertising copy can tweak the consumer's attention to try the product nevertheless, a unique, differentiating experience can encourage the customer to keep coming back for more.

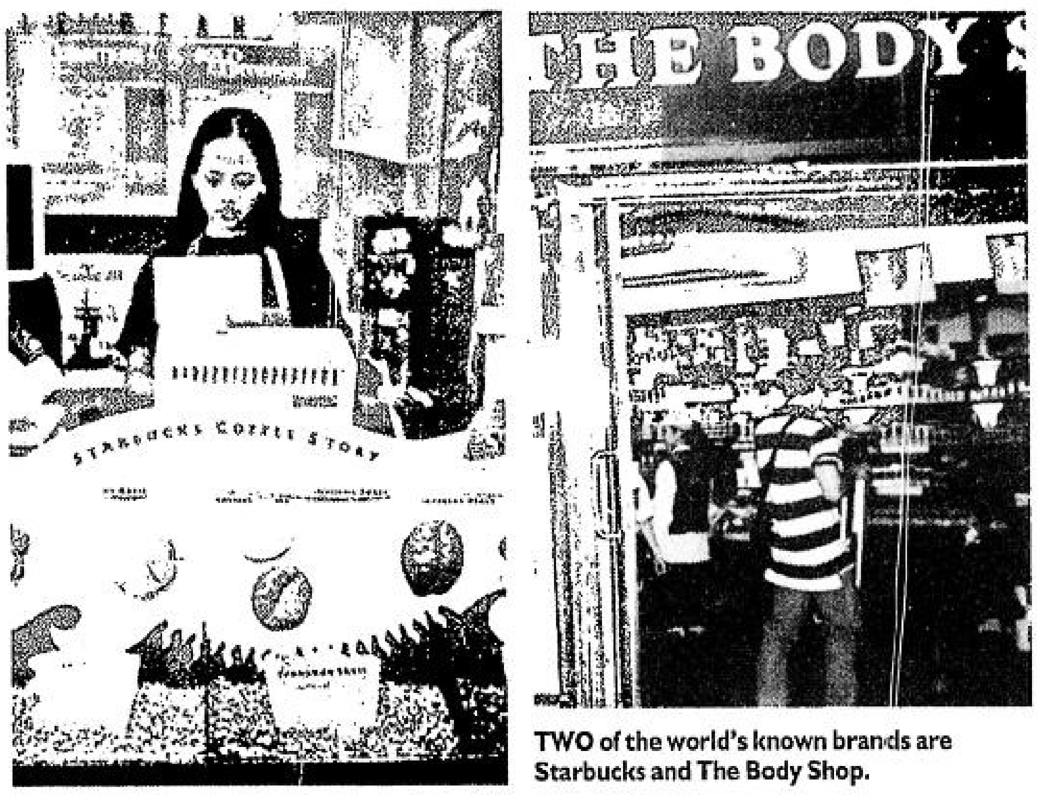
Starbucks has gone beyond selling its brand of coffee. It thrives profitably on the unique experience that loyal patrons enjoy while drinking Starbucks coffee with friends and business clients at its coffee shops.

Not to be outdone, Nescafé anchors on the same successful formula of brand experience with its Café Nescafé outlets worldwide. It recently opened in Metro Manila.

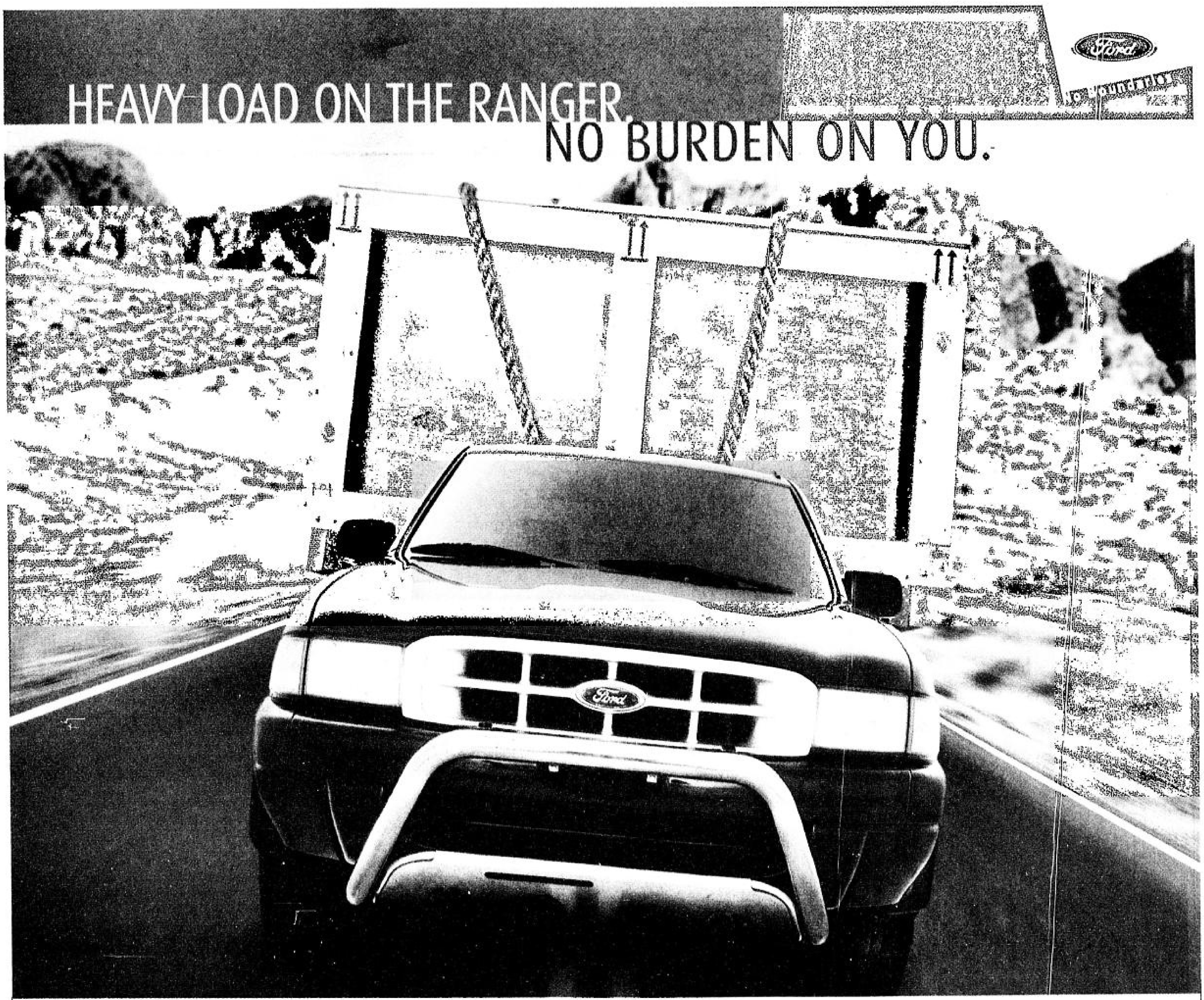
It is no surprise, therefore, if Unilever, makers of Lipton Ice Tea, introduces locally its Cha' tea shops serving a range of beverages from fruit teas to chilled frappes.

Hospital experience need not be stereotyped as dreary and boring. While it may never be exciting nor elating, it can absolutely be differentiating and non-dreadful. The newly opened Asian Hospital and

MATCH/C2



TWO of the world's known brands are Starbucks and The Body Shop.



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Expanding the expanded withholding tax

TAX-FILES

By Ronald Steven A. Arriesgado
SGV & CO.

DID you know that embalmers now need to worry about withholding taxes for services rendered to funeral companies? A grisly thought, no doubt.

But as the popular saying goes, "There is nothing more certain other than death and taxes."

And as certain as death itself, you can count on the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to come up with revenue regulations that would ensure the collection of taxes on virtually any transaction under the sun.

On Sept. 9, 2002 the BIR issued RR 14-02 which amends certain provisions of RR 2-98 by providing for additional items to be subjected to expanded (creditable) withholding tax (EWT).

RR 14-02 covers income payments to be paid or payable starting Oct. 1, 2002, the EWT on which is required to be remitted to the BIR within November. Below are the new items of income now subject to EWT under RR 14-02.

Rentals

Aside from rentals of real property used in business, the following rentals are now also subject to a 5-percent EWT:

1. Personal properties such as land, water, or air transport equipment; industrial, commercial or scientific equipment; agricultural machinery and equipment; construction/civil engineering machinery and equipment; telecommunications equipment; office furniture/machines and equipment and materials handling equipment and auxiliary equipment.

For these properties, the 5-percent EWT will apply if the gross rental or lease is over P10,000 per payment. However, the threshold will not apply if the accumulated rental paid by the lessee to the same lessor exceeds or will exceed P10,000 within the year. In such a case the lessee should apply the 5 percent EWT on the entire amount.

2. Poles, satellites, and/or transponder and transmission facilities, such as switchboards, land lines/aerial cables, underground cables and submarine cables.

3. Billboard signs or similar structures used in posting advertisements in public places such as buildings, vehicles, amusement places, malls and street posts.

4. Income payments to certain contractors, computer programmers, software/program developers/designers, internet service providers, web page designing, computer data processing, conversion or base services and other computer related activities are now included in the list of other contractors subject to the 2-percent EWT.

5. Income payments to brokers and agents. Likewise, stock brokers and immigration brokers have been included in the ranks of brokers subject to the 10-percent EWT.

6. Professional fees paid to medical practitioners, fees paid by hospitals and clinics, or paid directly by patients who were admitted or confined in such hospital or clinic shall be subject to 10-percent EWT.

The term "medical practitioner" now includes: doctors of medicine, doctors of veterinary service, dentists, medical technologists, allied health workers (e.g., occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech therapists, nurses etc.) and other medical practitioners who are not employees of the hospital or clinic.

7. Commissions of marketing agents of multi-level marketing companies. It is quite amazing that almost everyone is into the multi-level marketing business nowadays.

The idea of making millions from a small investment has caused the proliferation of multi-level companies. If you have been to one of their "invitation seminars," you will notice that most of the money comes from the commissions that the distributors receive.

Under RR 14-02, the commissions paid by multilevel marketing companies to independent and exclusive distributors, medical/technical and sales representatives, and marketing agents and sub-agents on their sale of goods or services, are now subject to a 10 percent creditable WT.

The term "multilevel marketing" is defined in RR 14-02 as a system of direct selling in which consumer products are sold by individuals where consumer products and services are supplied by an established multilevel marketing company who encourages the distributor to build and manage his own sales force by recruiting, motivating and training others to sell the product or service.

On the other hand, a "multilevel marketing company" is defined as any entity that is engaged in the sale of its products or services through individuals who directly sell such products or services to the consumers.

8. Other items of income. The following items of income have also been included in the list of income payments subject to EWT:

- Processing/tolling fees paid to refineries for the conversion of molasses to its by-products and raw sugar to refined sugar—5-percent EWT.
- Payments made by pre-need companies to funeral parlors for funeral services rendered—one-percent EWT.
- Payments made to embalmers for embalming services rendered to funeral companies—one-percent EWT.

Exemptions

However, not all income payments are subject to EWT. Under RR 14-02, the EWT shall not apply to income payments made to the following:

- National government agencies and its instrumentalities including provincial, city, municipal governments and barangays except government-owned and controlled corporations.
- Persons enjoying exemption from payment of income taxes pursuant to the provisions of any law, general or special, such as but not limited to the following:

1. Sales of real property by a corporation which is registered with and certified by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) or the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) as engaged in socialized housing project where the selling price of the house and lot, or only the lot does not exceed P180,000 in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas, P150,000 in other areas or such adjusted amount of selling price for socialized housing as may later be determined and adopted by the HLURB;

2. Corporations duly registered with the Board of Investments, Philippine Export Processing Zones and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority enjoying exemption from income tax pursuant to E.O. 226, as amended, R.A. 7916, the Omnibus Investment Code of 1997 and R.A. 7227, as amended, respectively;

3. Corporations which are exempt from the income tax under Sec. 30 of the NIRC, to wit: the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Social Security System (SSS), the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PHIC), the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR); However, the income payments arising from any activity which is conducted for profit or income derived from real or personal property shall be subject to a withholding tax as prescribed in these regulations;

4. General professional partnerships;

5. Joint ventures or consortium formed for the purpose of undertaking construction projects or engaging in petroleum, coal, geothermal & other energy operations pursuant to an operating or consortium agreement under a service contract with the government.

Taxpayers whose income are now included in the list of those subject to EWT may have cause to despair. However, even if the imposition of EWT would mean less income is received by the said taxpayers, they can cherish the thought that since the EWT will credited against their income tax liabilities, they could be paying less taxes come April 15.

Worse scenario is that they might have to claim for refund from the government, which unfortunately, could take a long time. Happy withholding!

(SGV& Co. will hold a half-day seminar entitled "Avoiding Tax Pitfalls 2" on Oct. 29, 2002 at the Peninsula Manila Hotel in Makati City. For futher information, please call Babes Capul at 894-8159.)

Match your marketing line with the brand experience

From page C1

Medical Center is designed to provide patient-centered care. Its hotel-like lobby has a baby grand piano by the entrance, it has comfortable waiting areas, subdued lighting, and has touches like complimentary send-off chrysanthemum flowers for every patient and congratulatory bouquets for first-time mothers. The hospital aims to create a differentiating experience.

The Body Shop does not merely sell natural, plant-based body care products, it also sells its advocacy of anti-animal testing as well as fair trading relationships, environmental awareness and care and community involvement.

2. Know who you are and what you stand for when you create the realm of brand experience. Great brands recognize that they cannot be everything to everybody. Successful marketers have long realized it is more profitable to be best in serving customer's needs and wants in a particular segment of the market. Valuable brands know their limits. Phil Knight, founding chief executive officer of Nike, knew only too well not to enter the casual shoe market with the brand name Nike when the brand's values are associated with competitiveness, athletics and fitness. After all, what is competitive about a casual, leisurely walk on a Sunday afternoon?

3. Create a brand personality that you can sustain with brand experience. Your brand's position and statement of identity must be translated into symbols, visuals and copy that your target market can relate to, have emotional affinity with or aspire to become.

When the computer was first introduced, it sounded, felt and looked too cold and was alienating to many. Not until the Apple Computer Co. came up with the Macintosh which was a very user-friendly computer. The apple symbol became associated with an easy-to-use and very useful gadget and has gained international recognition.

Providing for a consistent brand experience can only reinforce the consumer's awareness of what the brand truly represents. Having a delightful experience with the brand can only encourage the customer to keep coming back for more of these happy encounters.

(The author is a Marketing Management and Brand Management professor at the De La Salle Professional School's Graduate School Of Business with e-mail address at kdeasis@skyinet.net.)

To do business in China, hire …

From page C1

ing and young, urban families want more foreign products and services.

Latest figures showed that China's retail sales grew by 10.3 percent in the first quarter of 2001. As for franchise operations, sales turnover reached $2.3 billion during the period.

Familiar brands such as KFC, McDonald's, Kenny Rogers, Haagen Dazs, 7-Eleven, Christian Dior, Giordano and Bossini are already enjoying China's impressive growth.

"China has the ideal business environment. Despite the Asian crisis, China has not been subject to wide fluctuations in gross domestic product. It continues to show a consistent, stable economy," Fung says.

As soon as a company decides to go to China, Fung suggests that expansion should first start in the major coastal cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou before going inland.

Under the suggested short-term development plan, Fung suggests that the franchise program be launched in mass media through ads, referrals and franchise exhibitions.

He adds that a company should hire a franchise consultant from the region who is familiar with China and hire a China-based lawyer and accountant since China's legal and accounting systems need a little getting used to.

For those with a short-term development plan, Fung says the local businessman can award a master franchise agreement to a Chinese entrepreneur.

The master franchisee will gain the right to exercise powers within a pre-determined territory. He will be able to grow the business since he has local knowledge. He will then have the right to sub-franchise to other entrepreneurs in China.

Fung says that the franchisor under this arrangement will not have to shell out as much cash as if he went into the franchising operations on his own and will require less personnel resources.

For those with a five-year development plan, Fung suggests setting up a joint venture with a Chinese entrepreneur. The joint venture will be grant rights to an area developer to develop an entire market, country or region.

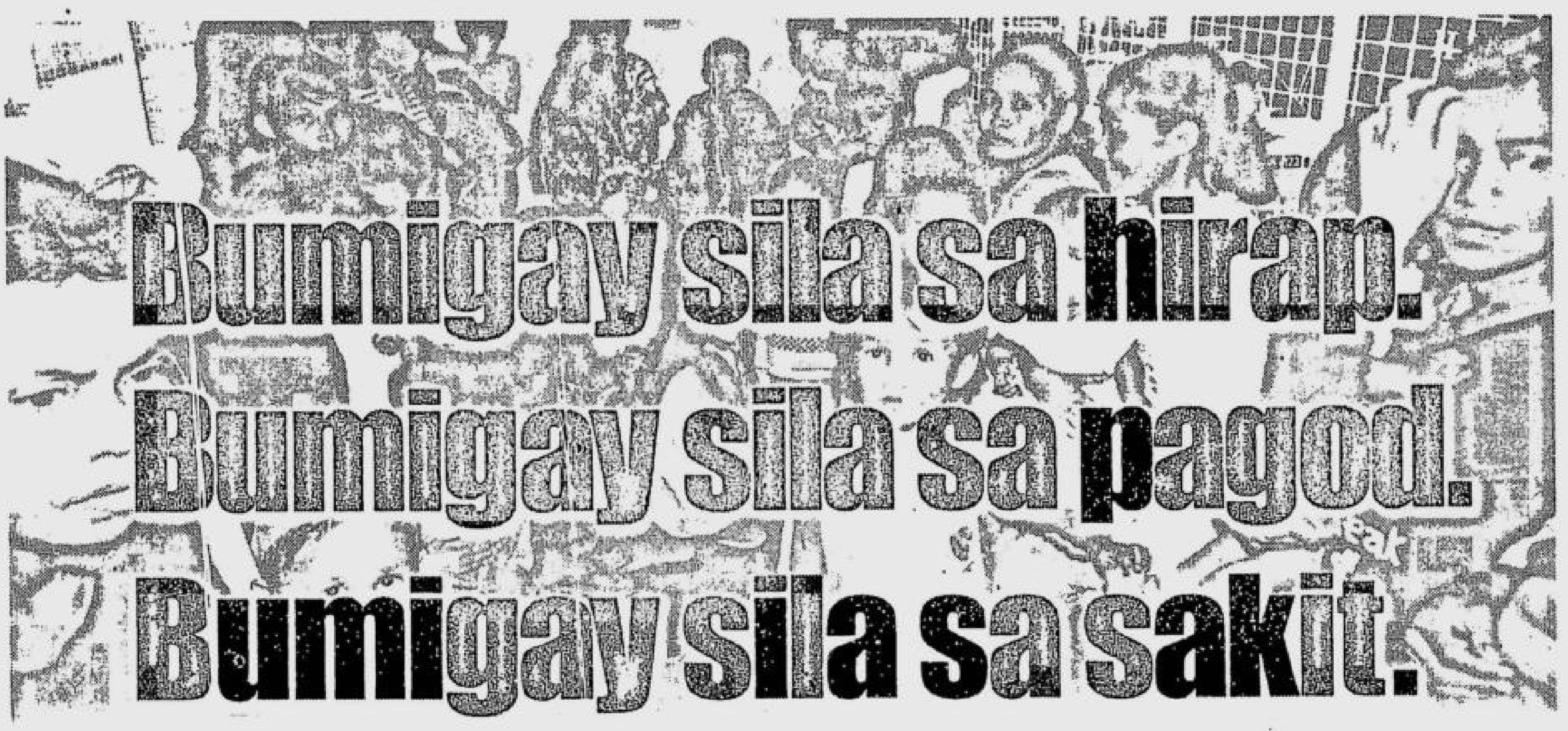
Those with a longer horizon of at least 10 years can choose to establish relationships with local government bodies. He can also prepare franchise-related materials in simplified Chinese.

And, the franchise program should be launched in mass media through ads, referrals and franchise exhibitions.

The company should register the company and trademark before starting the business, study the market potential of the product and set up its own store/office or set up a joint venture.

Fung stresses that it is a good time for unique Philippine enterprises to consider going to China and take advantage of the positive attitude toward foreign concepts. In this way, the Philippines can cushion the effects of investments going the way of China.

There is a reason after all why the character for crisis and opportunity is the same in the Chinese alphabet.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TABANG MINDANAW
INQUIRER

Five business lessons you learn from franchising

WOULD-BE entrepreneurs are taking the shortcut to success: franchising.

For many Filipinos who want to test their entrepreneurial acumen at minimal risk of failure, getting a franchise, either of a local or an international brand, is the way to go. And the success stories are endless—fast-food shops, shoe-repair stalls, auto-supply stores and even computer schools.

At the recent 10th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Exposition, Leo Riingen, master franchisor of Informatics Computer Institute in the Philippines with 40 operating franchises and 30 more to open soon, shared five lessons which he learned in the eight years of operation of Informatics.

Lesson No. 1 touches on checking the business fundamentals—your product, your resources, and the location of your enterprise. Everything starts with the product. Your product, Riingen says, must serve a purpose in society; otherwise, it will not take off. He says that it is not enough that one is enamored with one's product. "It should fulfill some need," he advises.

How much capital is needed? There is a franchise for almost any pocketbook size. Riingen says, "Any franchise should start with the right amount of capital. Not too much to tie-up cash but not to little to curtail operations. There should be enough capital for your monthly survival so that you can focus on getting customers rather than on scrounging money for rent and other basic expenses."

He also cautions against overlooking the budget for marketing. He says, "When things are going rough, most cut down on marketing."

However, many first-time entrepreneurs wrongly assume that financial capital is the only resource available. Riingen says, "Manpower is the greatest resource of any enterprise. Get into proactive hiring—that is, hiring the right people for the job. Get good people and be prepared to pay for their talents and skills.

"The advantage of a franchisee over other entrepreneur's is the availability of another resource, the franchisor. Make use of your franchisor's larger-than-life image in marketing your own enterprise."

Another basic business factor that should be carefully considered is location. Riingen names five factors to watch out for when scouting for a place to set up a business.

"Look for spatial monopoly or where you are the only one offering that kind of service. If this is not possible, you may instead look for where you may benefit from the agglomeration effect. This means going to where similar business enterprises converge. People tend to go to places where they can conveniently shop around and compare prices. Agglomeration effect happens among computer shops in Virra Mall. You may also set up in places where there is a complementary business to your business. Examples of these are a pharmacy near a hospital or a flower shop near a funeral parlor. Last but not the least, go to areas where there is accessibility and visibility. Look for a busy intersection that generates a lot of traffic, and therefore a lot of business. It is also disastrous for any business to be in a good location but can't be seen or noticed.

Lesson No. 2: Enhance your vital business relationships—between you and your franchisor, and between you and your customer. In some instances, franchisor-franchisee relationships sour after a few months. The franchisor is sometimes quick to criticize the franchisee's slip-ups, making the franchisee see the franchisor as an enemy.

Riingen says this need not be the case if you match your expectations with your franchisor's. "Many franchisees tend to limit their communication with their franchisor immediately after getting the franchise.

RIINGEN: Master franchisor

"The franchisee's role is to drive the engine that the franchisor made. If you're the franchisee, ask your franchisor for the driving manual, and not expect your franchisees to drive the car for you.

"Capitalize on the franchisor's experience, good and bad, in the business. The franchisor committed a lot of mistakes during its start-up and the franchisee therefore, spared from committing these costly mistakes. If you are the franchisor, should be a coach, not a judge.

"The franchisor is an ally, not the enemy. The enemy is the market. Win the war in the market."

The other important relationship that entrepreneurs should nurture is with its customers. He says, "Your success in the market depends on your mastery of the market. Offer what your customers want, not what you have.

Lesson No. 3: Identify at which stage of the franchise or business cycle you're in. There are five stages in the business lifecycle. Analogously, it is like crawling, walking, running, flying and declining.

The business should plan and act accordingly. Riingen says some businesses fail because they mix up the activities and the stage of their enterprise.

"You must crawl first. This is when you ensure operational readiness. At this stage you don't market yet because you're not yet ready. This is the time when you might have dry runs to test your operations and iron out mistakes.

Walking is the introduction or launch stage where you create awareness and trial generation. This is when you create awareness about who you are and what you have to offer.

"Running is the growing stage where you go for market expansion to maximize profit. Flying is the maturity stage where you build loyalty of your market and efficiency of your operations. And finally, decline is the stage where you ask the question: Relaunch or retire?"

Lesson No. 4: Learn to diagnose problems. All enterprises have two basic activities: the value-adding, primary activities like marketing, operations and finance, and the secondary, supporting activities like human resources, legal, office. Riingen says that proper identification of the problem leads to its early solution. Oftentimes, franchisees put a lot of time doing secondary activities and put primary activities second. Always remember that secondary activities exist because of the primary activities.

Lesson No. 5: Review the profit equation. Some entrepreneurs are too engrossed in the day-to-day operations of the enterprise that they neglect reviewing the finances of the company. Riingen says monitoring the finances closely allows for adjustments in the operations. "For instance, if expenses are up, the firm can double the revenues to increase profit or, if revenues are uncertain, double your efforts to decrease expenses to get a profit. If revenues are low, lower your expenses so you don't lose at all. As I always say, if you can't make a sale, try not to lose."

From what may be gleaned from the preceding insights, Riingen's five business lessons in franchising may be adopted to any enterprise of any size at any stage of the business cycle.

(Informatics is a Singapore-based IT school with more than 400 centers in over 40 countries worldwide. Informatics Philippines is the 2001 International Master Franchise of the Year)

Agora Awards highlights marketing success

IN A world of consumables, several household items have gone beyond being mere goods and services. It is not surprising then that some products have gained a certain fondness or loyalty among consumers, and to some point, even assume the generic name for their respective categories.

Take for instance the case of Colgate and Frigidaire. Often we hear of toothpaste and refrigerator referred to by these brand names. Or what about Biogesic which has become the general name for headache reliever?

Ironically, the persons and companies responsible for the success of these brands have remained anonymous, except perhaps in their own field.

HIZON: Trailblazing optimist

Suffice it to say, a venue is needed to highlight the marketing flair of these people and organizations.

"In today's economy, marketing has ceased to be just one of the functional areas of business management. It is a very important division in almost every company. Salespeople are able to sell because of the tools marketing is composed of. But more than selling, much attention should be given to promoting excellence in all areas of human development, most specially in the improvement of methods, techniques, and practices in marketing," says Veronica Hizon, managing director of The Andresons Group Inc., distributor of Emperador Brandy, Carlo Rossi Wines and Campbell Soup among others and director of Philippine Marketing Association's (PMA) Agora Awards.

A marketer, according to Hizon, is someone who does not only make products and services available to end-users but also ensures that they become "top-of-mind" or the brand of choice among consumers.

In doing so, the marketer helps in grabbing market share for the company and at the same time becomes a trailblazer and optimist in the industry.

Hizon cites her experience as a marketer and how she and her team steered The Andresons Group to become the country's leading distributor for quality brandy and wines.

"When I joined the company, I knew very well that we had good products. It was just a matter of selling them well and making people buy," she says.

Backed by her solid background in marketing, having worked for Kraft General Foods and Roche Philippines as product manager, Hizon knew how to turn the company around.

Undaunted by hard times ahead, she and her team, supported by the management group, worked on both trade and consumer outlets in and out of Metro Manila. Aggressive sales promotional activities were implemented which helped improve the brand status.

"While most companies stopped purchasing vehicles and spent less and less, ours was buying in fleets. We were opening outlets left and right at the height of the Asian economic crisis," Hizon shares.

The group's efforts eventually paid off. At present, Emperador Brandy and Carlo Rossi wines are the leading brands in the market.

Hizon's rich experience in marketing made her an asset to the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA), the country's most reputable marketing organization for which she has been a member since 1995 and served as program chair for the National Marketing Conference.

She is currently the director for the Agora Awards, an annual event honoring the country's top marketing individuals and companies who have attained excellence and contributed to the growth of the industry.

For 23 years now, the Agora Awards serves both as an inspiration and a standard for marketing glory in the Philippines, highlighting and rewarding Filipino ingenuity, innovation and versatility.

Shining Moment

Marketing then evokes images of fast-talking salesmen making misleading sales pitches for poor quality products. Through the pioneering efforts of three of PMA's founding members namely Ernie Roces, Willie Garcia, and Renato Esguerra, the Agora Awards was established in 1977 and has since helped professionalize the image of the marketing profession.

The name agora, the Greek word for market place, was most fitting for the awards since the place near Acropolis in ancient Athens symbolizes PMA's belief that business and industry can best contribute to economic progress.

"Through the Agora Awards, marketing practitioners are able to step forward and proudly present themselves as professionals in a field serving the Filipino people. We also hope to encourage the drive for quality in trade and among its practitioners and to improve public opinion of marketing," says Hizon.

During its initial year, the award-giving body gave recognition for excellence in the practice and teaching of marketing by paying tribute to achievers in three categories: Marketing Management, Marketing Education, and Entrepreneurship. Over the years, the categories of Export Marketing and Marketing Company of the Year were added.

In 1989, the Entrepreneurship category was subdivided into Large-scale, Medium-scale and Small-scale. More recently, the Asia-Pacific Agora Awards for Marketing Excellence was added, following PMA's membership at the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation which gave the Agora Awards an international di-

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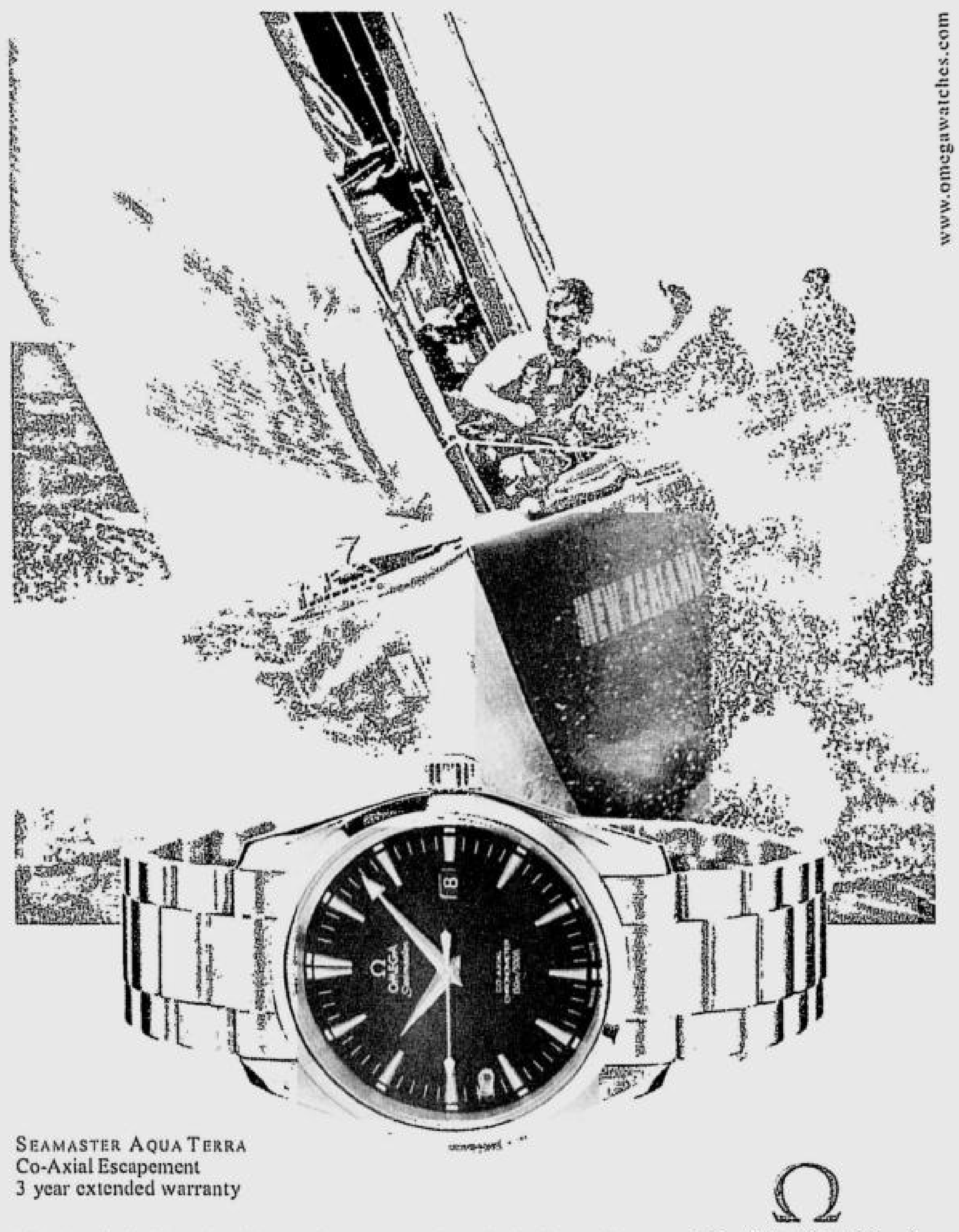

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Winning customers via response

UNIONBANK of the Philippines recently showcased how the combination of efficient information and funds in the supply chain can subsequently win customers through efficient consumer response (ECR).

In line with this year's conference theme of "Winning Consumers through ECR," UnionBank captivated the more than 400 delegates' interest. The conference, held at the Philippine International Convention Center, was organized by ECR Philippines (ECRP), composed of 80 company-members representing manufacturers, retailers, distributors and service providers.

UnionBank chair and CEO Justo A. Ortiz in his message to fellow ECR movers said, "ECR and UnionBank have common beliefs in sharing and adapting best company practices. We believe that we can do our part in helping achieve ECR goals by introducing financial products and services that can best help players in the supply chain achieve efficient cash management. Funds flow is every bit as important as goods flow and funds flow is the area where our expertise as a financial institution will figure in. This will be UnionBank's contribution to the ECR movement in the country."

UnionBank made a timely introduction of their BusinessCheck Enterprise Version, the latest disbursement product innovation aimed at enabling companies to effectively manage its cash flow with advanced options for paper or electronic-based payments.

Jess Dinglasan, chair and CEO of JDH-IDS Logistics Philippines and co-chair of ECRP; and Peppy Albert, chairman emeritus of ECRP, pressed the symbolic keys that launched the BusinessCheck Enterprise. Leading the launch from UnionBank were its chairman and CEO Justo A. Ortiz; executive vice president and head of corporate product banking center Hermie Pugeda; EVP and corporate banking center head Guia Lim; EVP and retail product banking center head Edwin Bautista; and EVP and channel management head Teddy Panganiban.

Other ECRP dignitaries and ECR advocates who also graced the UnionBank launching were: Procter & Gamble CEO Johnip Cua, Johnson & Johnson Asean president Diosdado Salvador, Kimberly-Clark president Paul Lageweg, Del Monte Philippines CEO Alex Castillo, Kraft Foods president and general manager Ferdinand dela Cruz, Gillette Philippines general manager Alan Simpson, SuperValue Inc. managing director Manny Fong, Unilever customer development director Pong Ejercito, Kimberly-Clark consumer sales director Apol Dionglay, Rustan's Supermarket vice president Maricar Tiangco, WalterMart president Wilson Lim, and Suy Sing Commercial Corp. general manager Tina Tan among many others.

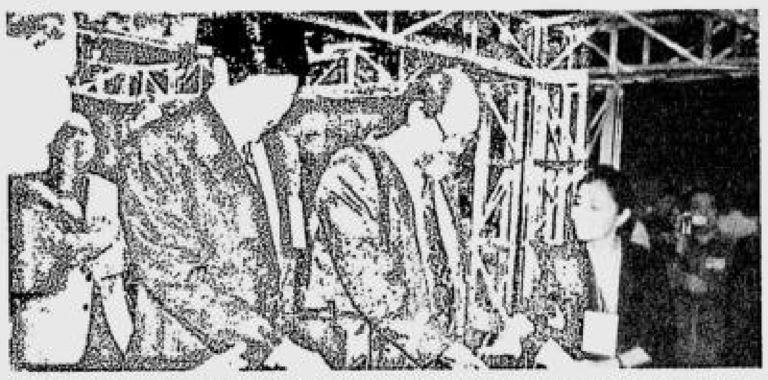
UNIONBANK
UNIONBANK

AVP Michael David, Chett Bernad, VP Alice Pastoral, EVP Guia C. Lim, FVP Jing Arce, chairman & CEO Justo Ortiz, EVP Teddy Panganiban, EVP Hermie Pugeda and EVP Edwin Bautista.

JUSTO (left) A. Ortiz, Tina Tan, general manager of Suy Sing Commercial Corp., and Manny Fong Jr. managing director of SuperValue Inc.

(From left) UBP EVPs Teddy M. Panganiban, Hermie M. Pugeda, Edwin R. Bautista, chair and CEO Justo A. Ortiz, Alan Simpson, general manager of Gillette Philippines Inc., Ferdinand de la Cruz, president and general manager of Kraft Foods Inc.

RUSTAN'S Supermarket CEO Maricar Tiangco-Lopez (back to camera) in a huddle with Paul Lageweg, president of Kimberly Clark Corp. for Philippine and Vietnam operations. Next to them are Diosdado Salvador, president of Johnson & Johnson Asean, an unidentified guest, Jess Dinglasan, chair and CEO of JDHY-IDS Logistics and UBP EVP Guia Lim.



JESS Dinglasan, chair and CEO of JDH-IDS Logistics, also co-chair of ECR Philippines, Peppy Albert, chair emeritus of ECR Philippines and chair of Grocent, UBP AVP Tricia Nuguid.

Firm wagers year's profits on ad campaign

MARKETING STRATEGY

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WOULD you wager a whole year's profits just to get a product known by a broader market? Star Paper general manager Romeo Jacinto would and has done exactly this to push Waterman fountain pens.

Jacinto says it has been over seven years since Star Paper got the Waterman license, but the company has not spent that much on advertising the product because its modest sales did not justify high marketing expenses. This explains why few Filipinos recognize Waterman which is the leading fountain pen in Europe. Star Paper's problem is how to make more Filipinos aware of the brand.

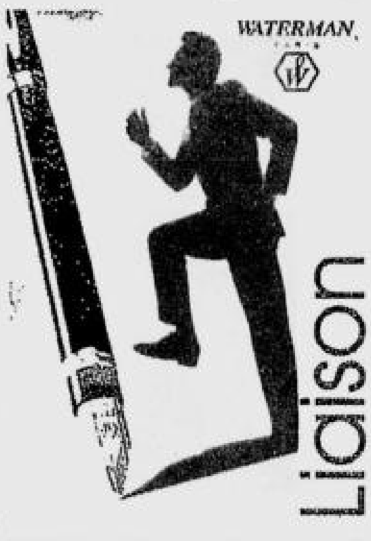
"It's a chicken and egg situation. Do we wait for sales to go up before increasing ad spending or do we spend now so that more people would know more of our product to want them and buy them?" Jacinto says.

Star Paper has earmarked a whole year's profits to undertake an aggressive marketing campaign for Waterman in the fourth quarter this year anchored on a raffle prize with a Ford Lynx sedan, palm pilot and Pioneer DVD player as prizes.

"We embarked on this promotion without any guarantee of success. We're doing this because we're confident that once a person gets acquainted with this fine handwriting tool, he'll get hooked," Jacinto says. Star Paper is hoping the ad campaign would boost Waterman sales by 50 percent.

Pen aficionados are drawn to Waterman mainly because of the balanced weight and size of the pen body, the way the nib glides across the paper, and secure fit of the cap to the barrel.

Jacinto says Waterman boasts of the widest array of designs that would fit individual preferences. He adds that blending decorative sophistication with a stylish script has been the trademark of Lewis E. Waterman, inventor of the first reliable, portable, and compact fountain pen.



WATERMAN eyes 50 percent of pen market

Waterman was a noted salesman who early on recognized the value of advertising in peddling his wares. Waterman came up with the "New, Improved" and "Dip No More" catch phrases on trade cards and magazines; provided a five-year, 100-percent refund guarantee; and printed catalogs and sent follow-up letters to buyers asking for their level of satisfaction.

Taking its cue from the founder, Jacinto says Star Paper wants to make Waterman fountain pens widely accepted in the Philippines.

Jacinto says that with its tight budget, Star Paper has to maximize its resources by ensuring that it sends its message directly to its target market.

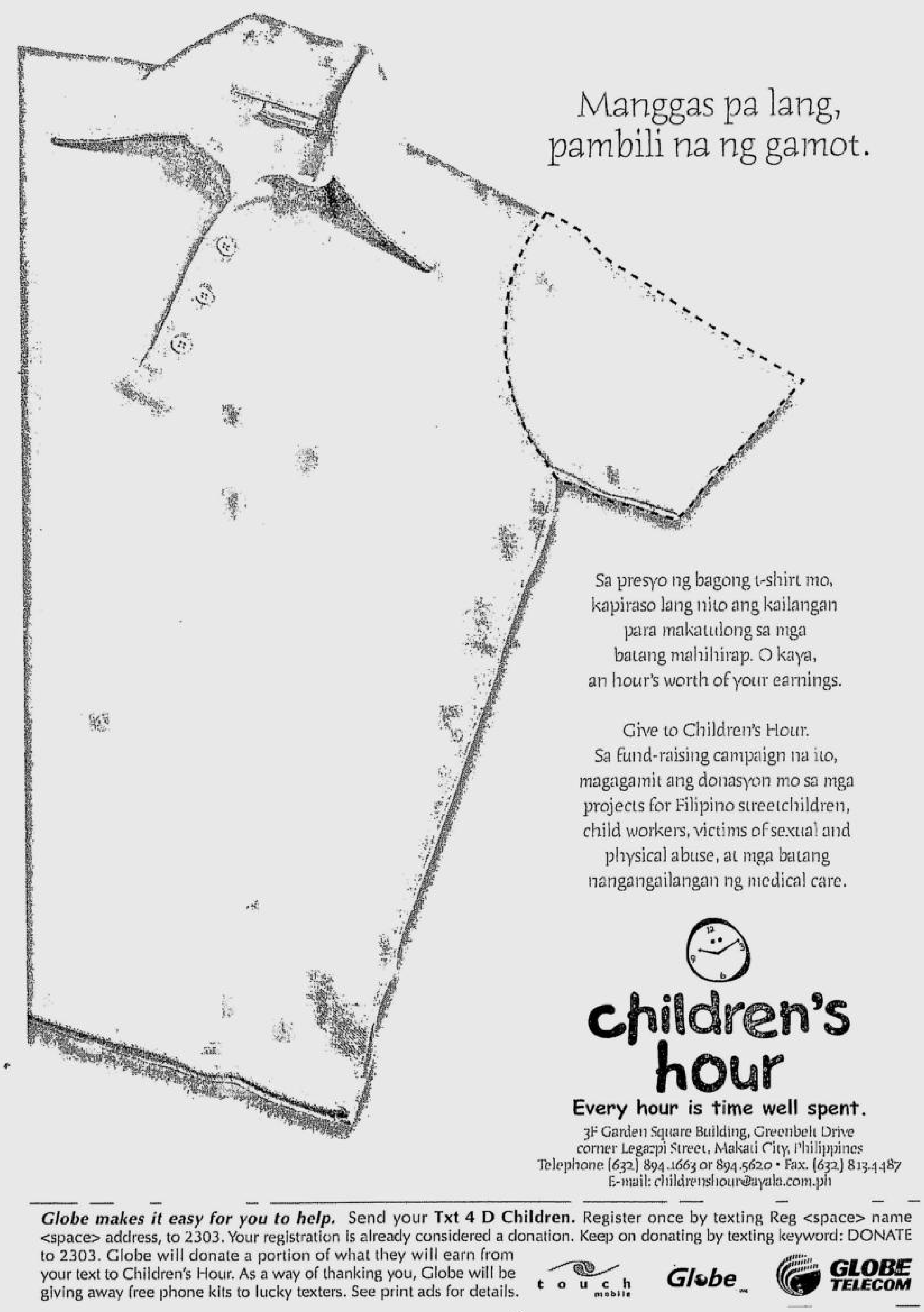
"Where we place the ads and what prizes are at stake reflect the market we want to penetrate," Jacinto says.

"We also wanted to make it subtle so that it doesn't appear that we are practically begging buyers to buy our product. That would not be in line with Waterman's image," he adds.

Jacinto says Waterman pens, which start at P1,500 each, are for individuals that want to make a statement of their high stature or fine taste.

Star Paper has tapped select lifestyle magazines whose readers fit their customer profile to be supplemented by placements in leading broadsheets. All ads focus on brand and the design appeal of the product.

Star Paper has likewise coordinated its in-store, point of purchase displays to highlight the Waterman pens. "We consider them as jewels so we're selling them like jewelry for buyers to see their beauty."


Manggas pa lang, pambili na ng gamot.

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LGUs have power to promote business

By Marco Angelo J. Rasos
Contributor

LOCAL governments are there because they are supposed to make a difference in the quality of life in their constituent communities.

They can, with the right mix of resources and resourcefulness, political will and entrepreneurial spirit, engineer the development of their respective towns and cities into "boom areas" in the mold of Metro Cebu, Metro Davao and Metro Naga.

The local industrialization trend is helped by a strong rural industrialization policy and legislation. The Local Government Code of 1991 empowers LGUs to be dynamic in enterprise promotion and wealth creation.

Other legislation like the Kalakalan 20 and the Magna Carta for Small and Medium Enterprises, lent teeth and muscles to the code prescription.

Some mayors and governors have started flexing their muscles in exercising this power. They are taking a hands-on role in securing the economic wellbeing of their people.

The province of Camarines Sur was among the first to show how a local economic development program works.

Naga City and 15 municipalities established the Metro Naga Development Council (MNDC) in 1993 to accelerate the growth and development of the Metro Naga area through the concerted efforts of its component LGUs.

Through a pooling of resources, specifically the sharing of heavy equipment, even the poorest barangay has these otherwise expensive facilities at its disposal.

The council also organized the senior citizens of the area to put up a cooperative that runs a drugstore through the Metro Naga Senior Citizens Program. It also established the Metro Naga Emergency Rescue Service, a radio network connecting all LGUs and which also has an ambulance-sharing program.

To push micro enterprise development, the MNDC set up the Metro Naga Livelihood Program to give rural and urban entrepreneurs equal access to credit. Capital funds have since been lent to handicapped workers, rural women, farmers' organizations, the urban poor and municipal employees for various micro enterprise projects.

The disparity in resources among its LGUs prompted the council to establish the Metro Naga Project Assistance Fund out of a portion of its common fund. The Project Assistance Fund allots an equal amount to each member for locally identified projects.

Another notable case is the Davao City Investment Board. The work of this board helped make Davao one of Asia's best cities and the Philippines' most livable city. The board established the Davao City Investment Center to support investment and entrepreneurial initiatives.

The center provides:

- Assistance in securing business permits and licenses.
- Processing of local incentives.
- Brokering and business matching (for would be investors looking for a local business partner).
- Assistance in finding suitable sites, manpower, raw materials, etc.
- Assistance in viability/feasibility studies.
- Investment counseling.

The Metro Naga Development Council and the Davao City Investment Board are testimonies that local governments can initiate and accelerate economic development. They can provide an environment suitable for growth.

The bottom line is they can alleviate poverty. The success of these LGUs can be attributed to a strong leadership and entrepreneurial drive among its executives.

Naga City Mayor Jesse M. Robredo initiated the meeting of the other 15 Naga mayors that led to cooperative efforts and finally the Metro Naga Development Council.

In Davao, it was City Mayor Benjamin de Guzman who issued the executive order creating the Davao City Investment Board. The City Sanggunian picked it up from there, creating a new Davao City Investment Incentive Board and Investment Promotion Center.

Through initiative and unity, LGUs can come together and help each other out to bring about development. By pooling their resources, the people are assured of basic services just like Naga.

By helping each other promote an investor friendly environment, the LGUs will help create jobs just like in Davao. Provision of basic services and jobs is on the road to alleviating poverty in the locality and consequently in the country.

The experiences not only of Naga and Davao but also of other enterprise-development oriented local governments are distilled in a training called Enterprise Development Promotion Course for Local Executives (EDPCLE).

Organized by the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) and the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation (Serdef), EDPCLE seeks to upgrade the skills and know-how of the LGU heads/executives in setting up a development action plan that can cultivate an environment suitable for the growth and sustainability of private initiatives and government projects.

Endorsed by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), EDPCLE covers the development process, global trends, the Philippine business environment, and local enterprise development programs and strategies. Participants learn through a mix of workshops, case studies, field visits, and lecture-discussions.

(The UP ISSI's training department may be contacted through 926-63-16 and 928-7076 to 79.)

Catering to foreign students is good business in Baguio

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FOREIGN students patronize food stalls at the Starbus Arcade that sell cheap and authentic South Asian food.
PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU

BAGUIO CITY—A group of young Nepalese was eating chicken biriani (a rice-based dish) and dal (a lentil soup) beside a table of young Iranians drinking Turkish coffee in small dainty cups. At the background is a Bangladeshi carving beef to make shawarma.

Then a distant bell rang and some of the Nepalese and Iranians took their notebooks and bade their friends goodbye. Inevitably other foreign students will take their place and eat Jordanian and Bangladeshi food.

If not for the other booths selling pancit, Vigan empanada and La Paz batchoy, you would feel you were in another country.

But what is more surprising is, not only that there are booths selling Jordanian and Bangladeshi food, but that the food is cheap.

The chicken biriani and dal cost only P35 each and the Turkish coffee is sold at P15 a cup.

At the Starbus Arcade, the cacophony of different languages no longer bothers the other customers in this open-air fast-food compound near the University of Baguio.

"The only time they were quiet was during the World Cup when we set up the television for them to watch," said Starbus manager Mauricio Victa.

It is not surprising that there are foreign students in Baguio. The city has always attracted foreign students not only because of its cool climate and relatively carefree city mood, but also because the city is the educational center of the North.

Maysam Nikbin, a 20-year-old Iranian, said he planned to go to Dagupan City for his pre-dentistry course.

"I was waiting for the bus to bring me to Dagupan but I instead took the wrong bus and ended up in Baguio. I got to like Baguio and would not want to study anywhere else," he said.

During the past years, most of the foreign students in Baguio are Thais, Middle Easterners and Japanese. Now, Koreans and Bangladeshi, Nepalese, Pakistani and other South Asians compose the majority.

UB, just in front of the Starbus Arcade, has about 300 foreign students, mostly enrolled in the medical courses like physical therapy and dentistry. About 500 other foreign students are studying in other Baguio universities.

Victa said when he became the Starbus manager in 2000, there were 15 food booths but none catered to foreign students.

A Bangladeshi named Karamit Ali Mizan was selling backpacks and similar items.

When Mizan left, his business partner Nazrul Islam, a Bangladeshi married to a Filipina, took up Victa's advice and set up a booth selling Bangladeshi food and shawarma.

"I do not really cook much back home," said Islam, more known here as "Ronnie." His previous business was selling bags in Hong Kong.

With a P100,000 capital, he set up his booth and eventually his countrymen and other South Asians patronized his food.

His menu now includes chicken and beef biriani, fish and beef curry, somucha (spicy vegetable pie) and kima roll.

Bangladeshi food, like Filipino food, is rice-based, Islam said. In beef biriani, the meat is mixed with the rice, creating a combination of the bland and meaty flavors. Chicken biriani is more like two separate elements.

The chicken and beef biriani with salad and dal or chicken soup costs P35. Fish and beef curry with biriani rice also sells for P35 while vegetable curry with biriani rice sells for P30.

Parata is another Bangladeshi staple, similar but bigger than the Vigan empanada.

Parata with chicken or beef also sells for P35 while parata with vegetable costs P30. Somucha sells for P5 while sweet kima roll sells for P6. Cha, which is milk tea, sells for P15.

Islam also sells shawarma for P25, which is popular with the Filipinos. He makes his own pita bread.

He sells about 30 to 40 dish combinations a day and 60 to 100 shawarmas.

Last February, Maria Magdalena Royo Mustafa, a Filipina married to a Jordanian and who has stayed in Jordan for 17 years, also set up a booth at Starbus.

"I was bored and was picking up my children in UB when I saw many foreign students here," she said.

Her "Sara's Food" includes traditional Jordanian fare like kopta, sayaduya, malfuf, mahlubi, kabsa, fasulia, matsbush, falafel and biryani. Combinations range from P25 to P35.

Her popular Arabic or Turkish coffee sells for P15. She plans to sell kabab for P25 by October.

About 90 percent of their customers are foreign students, Islam and Mustafa said.

At the end of the day, Mustafa sells about 100 to 150 dishes.

"The Filipino students are surprisingly less adventurous with their food but we have more and more of their parents coming here," Mustafa said.

Nikbin said he never eats anywhere except at Starbus.

"I take home the food for my dinner when I'm tired to eat," he said.

Mustafa and Islam also cater for foreign students for special occasions like birthdays and holidays.

Islam buys his spices and other condiments in Metro Manila while Mustafa's husband brings the spices from Jordan.

During the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States, some of the foreign students found that withdrawing money had become tedious, often taking months before the money was processed.

To help them, Islam and Mustafa gave credits to their regular customers.

Islam said during Sundays and holidays, business is slow so he plans to open by October a stall at a nearby shopping mall.

"At first, I did not think much of the money but only because I just love to cook. But now, business is good," said Mustafa.

"I hope that more stalls serving foreign food will come here. I wanted not only the foreign students to feel at home here but for the Filipino students and the Baguio community as well to taste the food here and know more about the culture of these countries," Victa said.

Agora Awards . . .

From page C3

mension.

The Agora Awards is a marketing practitioner's ultimate goal. The annual search shows that today's marketing professionals are becoming more competitive and aim for distinction in their respective fields.

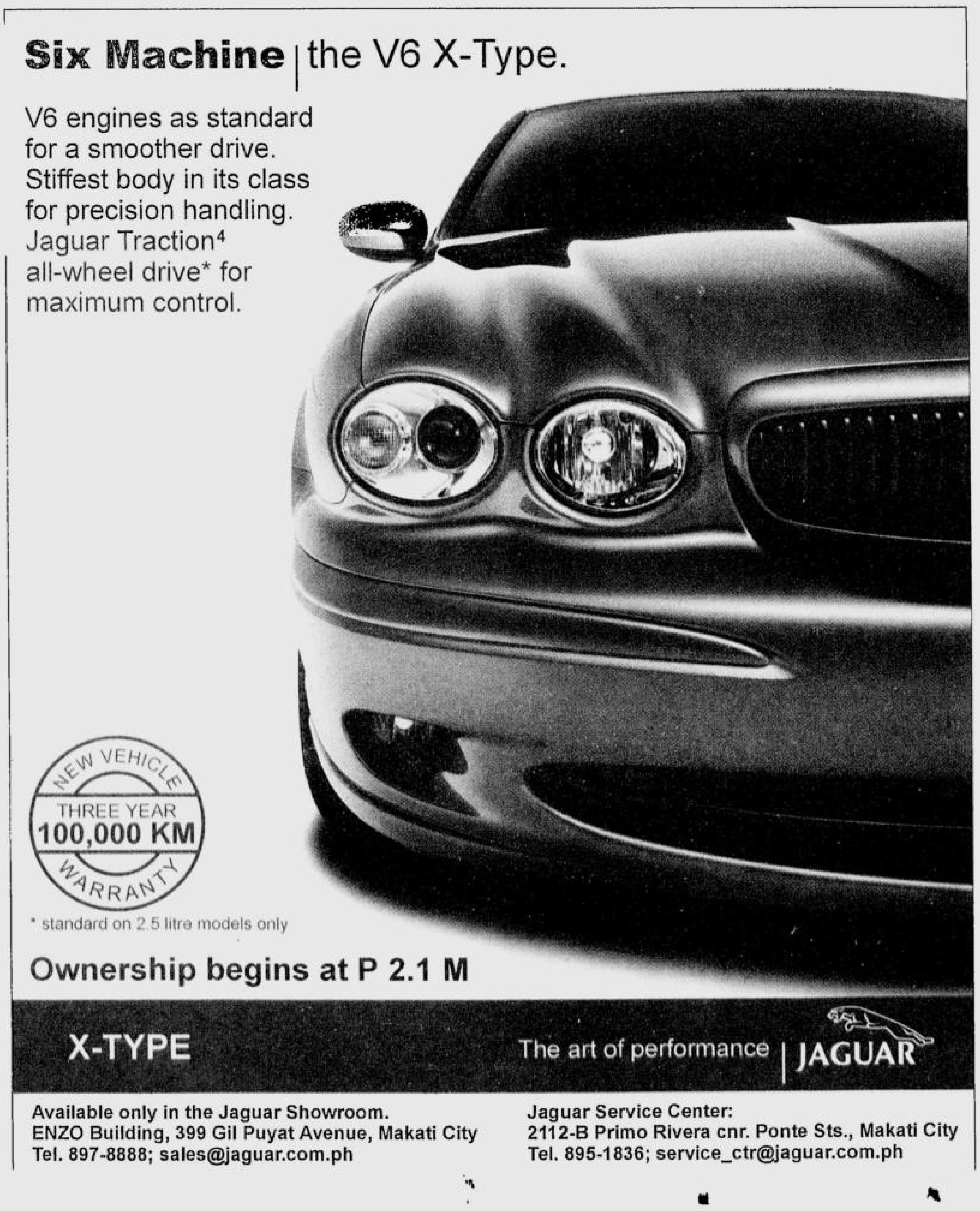
Agora's previous awardees represent the marketing "who's who" in the country, serving as inspirations and role models in the industry. Past winners of the Marketing Company of the Year award include Jollibee Foods Corp., United Laboratories, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Smart Communications and Globe Telecom.

McCann Erickson-Philippines' top honcho Emily Abrera, Cora Doloroso Career Center president Cora Doloroso, Mina Gabor and Sen. Manuel Villar all received the Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management award.

Business tycoons Henry Sy of Shoemart, Rolando Hortaleza, president and CEO of the Splash Group of Companies, Dr. Abraham Pascual, chairman and CEO of Pascual Laboratories Group and Ben Chan of Bench were all cited for their outstanding marketing achievement in entrepreneurship.

For this year's Agora Awards, PMA shall be giving recognition in the following six categories: Marketing Company of the Year, Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship (small, medium, large), Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education, Outstanding Achievement in Export Marketing, Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Management, and Asia Pacific Agora Award for Excellence. This year's awarding ceremonies will be held on Nov. 29 at the Hotel Intercon.

(For inquiries about advertising participation and the 23rd Agora Awards, call the PMA secretariat at 8130466 and 8923144.)



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People, Events & Products
Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Mepco celebrates 35 years of solid commitment

WE SEE how technology continues to play a crucial role in changing the lives we live.

We witness how scientific advancement and research continue to enrich our knowledge.

And yet, we know many find it difficult to keep some very simple things intact through time.

Like a promise.

Matsushita Electric Philippines Corp. (Mepco) is one exception. Maker and distributor of National and Panasonic brands of home and kitchen appliances and audio-video equipment, the company has been true and solid on its commitment for 35 years now—that of continuing to devote its activities to the progress and development of society and the well-being of people.

A member of more than 220 overseas affiliates of Matsushita Electric Group, Mepco stands firm in keeping its promise of giving the best lifestyle to all. The company traces its history to 1967 when then president and now honorary chair Jesus V. del Rosario entered into a joint venture agreement with Matsushita Electric-Japan, which gave birth to premium quality National and Panasonic products for Filipinos. To date, there are more than 1000 dealers worldwide supporting the company and carrying the National and Panasonic brands.

Mepco believes that people are a company's foremost asset. True to its principle of "making people before making products", the company continues to look after the welfare of its employees. Aside from ensuring each one's job security, Mepco believes that developing employees' personal and professional capabilities empowers them to help fulfill the company's mission.

The company realizes that a crucial part of fulfilling its mission depends on the company's human resources. That's why at Mepco people empowerment never stops. From the day a prospective applicant sets foot on Mepco grounds, it's a cycle of continuous growth and learning

Personnel development at Mepco is achieved through self-development by training on and off the job here and abroad. It involves honing their technical, functional and management skills according to their respective fields of specialization.

This strong belief on the power of its people to realize its goal of sustained progress and development for the company and society is coupled with Mepco's expertise on industry innovation and research. The company, led by its president Yukiharu Kubota, believes that technology is a potent tool to continuously better the lives of people and create a nurturing environment.

Mepco is an industry pioneer in promoting an array of environment-friendly products, such as non-mercury batteries and non-chlorofluorocarbon (non-CFC) refrigerators. 35 years of Mepco technological innovation has seen environment-friendly initiatives like power conservation, waste minimization and management, and the reduction and abolition of harmful chemicals.

After 35 successful years in the industry, Mepco remains strong in continuing its commitment to the Filipino people to contribute to society's progress. Continuously, guided by the belief of the late founder of Matsushita Electric Konosuke Matsushita: that goals should be continuously pushed higher and higher; always believing that there are more things to be achieved and that society could be continuously improved.

And so we feel safe and secure, knowing that some, like Mepco, know how to keep some very simple things intact through time. Like its promise of making sure we get only the best that we may continue to live well.

CENTURY PARK HOTEL, OCT. 3, 2002

NEW BAKERY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

The Filipino-Chinese Bakery Association Inc. inducted its new set of officers during formal ceremonies at the Century Park Hotel Oct. 3. Inducting officer senior adviser Mariano Venes Tan swore in Pancrasio Tan as president, Richard Tan as executive vice president, Nelly Yung as 1st vice president, Wilson Lim as 2nd vice president, Ching Suy Eh as 3rd vice president, Marcos Ong as secretary, Benito Ong as treasurer, and Henry Ah as public relations officer.

BARBIE AS 'RAPUNZEL'

This holiday season, Barbie doll avid followers will once again be amused with the brand's latest adaptation of the colorful classic fairytale classic 'Rapunzel' played by Barbie. Barbie launches her latest character in a series of plays titled 'Barbie as Rapunzel Musical Play at the Malls'. Watch out for Rapunzel and other characters on Oct. 20 at SM Southmall, Nov. 10 at SM Megamall, Nov. 17 at Robinsons Galleria, Nov. 24 at SM North Edsa, Nov. 30 at Dreamzone (Ermita) Manila, and Dec. 8 at Glorietta. Just present your Family Chance Pass Ticket at the registration booth to serve as the entrance for one family with 2 to 12-year-old kids. Claim the Pass Ticket upon purchase of any Barbie item worth P300 at the Think Pink Boutique, Toy Kingdom, SM Toy World, SM Character Shop and Robinsons Barbie outlets. Barbie is exclusively distributed by Richwell Trading Corp.

BIGGEST RI EVENT IN RP

Rotary International (RI) president Bhichai Rattakul, center, appointed PDG Antonio A. Rufino, left, as organizing chair and past RI vice president Gary C.K. Huang, right, as the convenor of the Rotary Zone Institute which will be held at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel from Oct. 25 to 27. The Institute is a venue for fellowship of Rotarian leaders from 14 countries with their spouses. It affords Rotarians to get acquainted with ideas and plans for the future of the organization. It establishes lines of communication for the expression of individual views and ideas. The shared ideas and the formulated plans therein and other critical issues substantially strengthen Rotary in the districts and worldwide. The organizing vice chairs are PDGs Guiller Tumangan and Johnny Aruego. A comprehensive program has been prepared and Rotarians who participate in this important occasion will have a very rewarding experience.

Seipi launches industry competitiveness study

TECHNOLOGY plays a vital role in the competitiveness and economic growth of a country. To promote technology development, an enabling environment is needed. This includes macroeconomic and political stability, harmonized policies, sound human resource development policy and country technology strategy. In formulating a country technology strategy, reviewing national technology capabilities, systems and policies is required. In this view, industry and government cooperation is essential to strategy making and implementing.

The Semiconductor and Electronics Industries of the Philippines Inc (Seipi) believes that Philippine electronics is the driver of the country's economy. Last year, the industry accounted for 70 percent of total Philippine exports in merchandise goods. It employs more than 300,000 engineers, technicians, operators, and provides the transfer of best global practices in technology manufacturing to Filipino workers. For 30 years, it has driven and promoted information and communications technology in the Philippines.

These are the key reasons Seipi has developed a Competitive Landscape Study with Deloitte Consulting, an international consultancy firm. A key objective of the research study is to create a vision of how science and technology can best meet the nation's future economic needs and to effectively articulate this vision to political leaders and the general public.

Seipi will formally launch the study during the CEO Forum titled electronics.business@seipi.4. This year's meet adopts the theme "Building a Value Roadmap for Technology and Business" which hopes to generate awareness and understanding of the study in order to create a strategic roadmap in collaboration with the government, private business sector and other key stakeholders. This whole day event will take place at the Rizal Ballroom of the Shangri-la Makati Hotel Oct. 22.

"The science and engineering enterprise itself is a key component of the national economy. The current economic and political environment provides an excellent opportunity for the nation to take stock of what we have learned from the past three decades of responding to global competitive challenges in science and technology-based industries, while looking into the future," said Ernie Santiago, executive director of Seipi.

For inquiries about the forum, call Seipi at 844-9028 to 30.

BUNYE 1ST AIM HONOR & PRESTIGE AWARDEE

AIM president Roberto de Ocampo informs Press Secretary Ignacio R. Bunye of his nomination for the first AIM Honor & Prestige Award, which will be formally conferred on him in next year's alumni homecoming. Also to be honored are Gina Lopez, managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation and Gen. Edilberto Adan, Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). Bunye graduated from AIM with a Masters in Management degree in 1976. Looking on is Felipe Diego, chair of the AIM Alumni Association.

Guest of Honor: Ma. Livia "Honey Girl" S. De Leon
PCSO Chairman
Inducting Officer: Ma. Cely Maratangay
IWCPI - National Presiden
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2002
rila Hotel

IWC DC TURNOVER

Immediate past district chair Tina Carlos puts the district chair's pin to Baby Golez during the 7th induction and turnover ceremonies of Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines Inc. district 381 held recently at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. Looking on are their respective spouses Rolly Golez and Vince Carlos.

BITS Clips

New tricks and treats

SAN MIGUEL-Purefoods Culinary Center invites you to a cooking demonstration to spice up your Halloween meals with new tricks and treats. The cooking demo will be held at SM City Fairview on Oct. 18, 2 p.m. All interested participants should present any two wrappers of Monterey, Magnolia Chicken, Purefoods-Hormel, or any Magnolia Butter, margarine, or cheese to avail themselves of the entrance and raffle ticket. For inquiries, call 671-9876 to 91 locals 402 and 405.

What women want

MEGA Magazine, dubbed the Philippines' best fashion magazine, knows just the perfect way to pamper and please women of fashion and style. This October, ladies are in for an extraordinary affair with the Mega Fashion, Lifestyle and Beauty Fair (Mega FLB). Now on its 3rd year, the pampering continues at the Alabang Town Center's Corte de las Palmas on Oct. 18 and 19. The final round of the Mega FLB fair will be at the Rockwell Power Plant Northcourt on Oct. 25 and 26. It's going to be a long line of must-see booths for a load of privileges and exciting products, with participants such as Nivea, Samsonite, Braun Buffel, Tefal, Space Bag, Henkel's Perwoll, Fewa, Fresh Looks, Time Depot, Block & White, and even Epson strutting their stuff. For more information, call Des Morales at 631-2859.

Vaseline
Good House

MOM GLOWS WITH VASELINE LOTION

Enjoy healthy, glowing skin with Vaseline Lotion. Vaseline mommy Aileen Alvior treats herself to healthy soft and smooth skin at the Vaseline Lotion Healthy Skin PTA tour in Growing Seeds Child Development Center, Mandaluyong. Aside from hearing a talk on 'Building a Positive Relationship with Your Child', parents got a chance to participate in the Vaseline Glowing Mom game. Great Vaseline Lotion gift prizes were given away to lucky winners. The Vaseline Lotion Healthy Skin Tour is currently visiting Parent-Teacher Associations to bring moms closer to healthy, glowing skin. The next Vaseline Healthy Skin PTA tour will be held at St. Mary's Academy in Pasay Oct. 19.

Product FILES

Citibank Clear Card gives better perks for Pia

GETTING all perked up well in the morning is a breeze for TV host Pia Guanio, as she relies on her Citibank Clear MasterCard to get a free size upgrade on her favorite Coffee of the Day at Starbucks. This gives her a bigger, better boost from the rich diverse blends that changes on a daily basis. Aside from this, the Citibank Clear Card gives her other "better deals than if I pay in cash," she said. This includes discounts of up to 30 percent in over 60 shops like Levi's, Nike Park and other stores, as well as in dining and party hotspots around the metropolis. For an easy-to-pay P90 monthly membership fee, Citibank Clear Card can allow you to enjoy all these, as well as the local and global advantages associated with having both the Citibank and MasterCard brand. For more details, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999, or log on to www.citibank.com.ph.

EAI reveals new logo

Eastmont Advertising Inc., in its 8th year in the industry, proudly presents its new corporate logo, which showcases the company colors of blue, green and gold. Exuding a more dynamic look, it has a rendition of a green stylized profile of a mountain against a vanishing gold background. This symbol stands for the corporate acronym EAI, signifying the ad agency's proactive attitude in crafting creative advertising attuned to the current consumer lifestyle.

Blue symbolizes EAI's loyalty and sound advertising practice to their craft. The EAI team believes that once you have reached the top in any undertaking for a client, then there is always the next task ahead to climb for them benefiting both as business partners.

Newspapers need to be more useful to readers to survive

PARIS—Newspapers in developed countries are in slow decline and must concentrate on being useful to readers and advertisers rather than on filling their pages with politics, a report published here warns.

While noting that the trend of declining sales matches the rise of television, the report by the Academy of Moral and Political Science, part of the Institute of France, said that sales and profits varied sharply depending on the state of the economy and on news such as the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Even in the United States, which has the most dynamic newspapers, readership of daily newspapers had declined for 20 years, and by one percent per year for 10 years.

The 116-page report, directed by former AFP president Henri Pigeat and Jacques Leprette, found that: "People are reading fewer and fewer newspapers, in France, as in most countries. The political press is dying. Television has become the main media.

"Whatever the reasons, and there are probably many, the fact is that the circulation of general-interest newspapers is falling constantly." But the Internet was less of a competitor than an opportunity to increase revenue from news.

Through long analysis, the report, compiled by Jean-Charles Paracuellos and published at the end of last week, shows that some trends, notably in developed countries, are general but cover big differences in the cultural role of newspapers.

Daily newspapers have to be close to their readers while concentrating on three economic imperatives, it suggested:

- Justify themselves in the market place and not be under state or semi-state control;
- Provide services and advantages, in terms of content, distribution and price, which satisfy readers and separately advertisers;
- Separate editorial matters from commercial interests to ensure credibility while ensuring that the editorial content attracts readers of use to the advertiser.

"These principles raise contradictions and difficulties in the management of a newspaper. They may appear irritating in social, political or human terms. Even so, they are unavoidable in terms of economic realities which alone determine the life and independence of the written press."

The so-called "popular" (tabloid) type of newspaper was declining, although circulations in Britain and Germany, for example, remained in the millions while in France they had fallen into hundreds of thousands. Popular newspapers drew much of their readership from young people who, in general, preferred television to newspapers.

A chapter on daily newspapers in the United States said the number of titles and sales had diminished for 20 years and that newspapers were increasingly reliant on advertising revenue.

However, they adopted new ideas, monitored closely the needs of readers and advertisers, and maintained efficient distribution.

These factors were part of the reason why they were the most efficient and prosperous in the world, with margins sometimes exceeding 20 percent, while also being investigative and challenging vested interests.

Noting cultural differences, the report asked why the Swiss and Norwegians prefer to subscribe for a year rather than buy daily, why the British read newspapers while commuting and the French read books; and why the British and Americans spend much of their Sundays reading Sunday newspapers, a role filled in France by weekly news magazines, although the Sunday market was the only one to grow.

The Japanese were special because they liked to receive standard information from different newspapers, part of the process of sharing in group culture which did not demand diversification of the press, but Japanese newspapers had one of the highest rates of market penetration in the world.

Quoting from a recent report for the World Bank, the study said that state ownership of the media, strongest in Africa and the Middle East, occurred in countries with the poorest scores for civil rights, good administration, developed markets and health and education services. State ownership provided "no advantages."

Tables in the report showed that of 26 countries, Japan had the lowest number of daily newspapers per million inhabitants at one title per million, compared for example with 2.2 in the United Kingdom, 5.6 in Germany, 6.9 in the United States, 13 in Sweden and Finland and 23 in Norway.

The data from various sources including the World Association of Newspapers showed that the number of newspapers sold per 100 adults was lowest at eight in Greece, 18 in France, 20 in Ireland, 25 in New Zealand, 35 in Germany, 68 in Japan, and highest at 72 in Norway.

AFP

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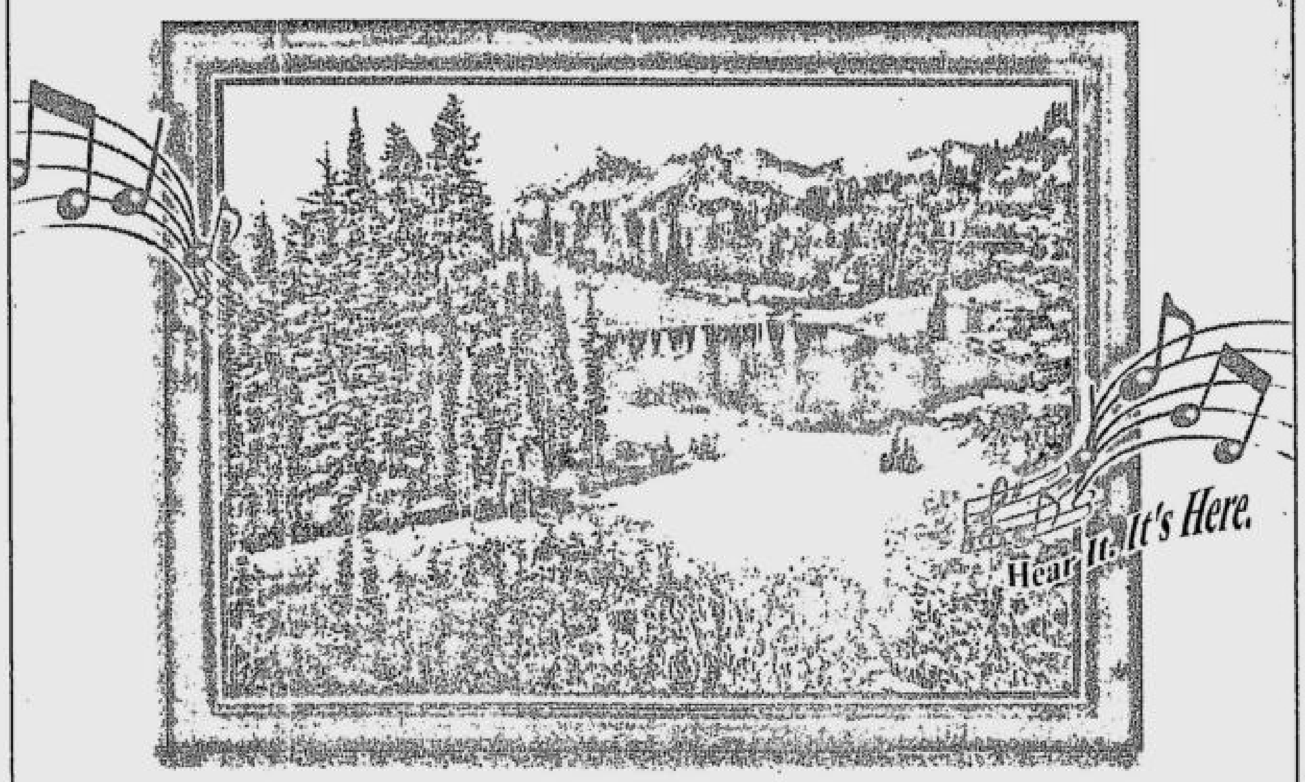
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Travel industry faces aftershock from blast

BANGKOK, Thailand—Just a month ago, Asian travel industry executives were complaining that scary travel advisories were unfairly damaging the region's image and hurting business.

But reality surpassed the rhetoric of the most extreme warnings Saturday night, when almost 200 people, mostly tourists, were killed in a bombing of a nightclub on the popular Indonesia resort island of Bali.

Australians are likely to top the casualty list from the attack, with 21 confirmed dead so far and 196 injured. Other victims were from Briton, Singapore, Germany, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States.

"In the past, the worst you could get was Bali belly. Now, suddenly we're worried about becoming a victim of . . . terrorism," Daniel Gschwind, Australia's Queensland Tourism Industry Corp. chief executive said Monday.

"It affects not just Australians but it affects people worldwide. Our traveling freedom has been impacted upon."

The horrible images of the dead and maimed transmitted around the world were quickly reinforced by strong warnings issued by governments of some of the region's most lucrative markets.

Britain's Foreign Office was warning Britons not to go to Bali at all and to avoid Indonesia except on essential business.

The lighter touch of a warning from France was hardly reassuring.

"We are asking all French nationals in Indonesia to avoid tourist sites," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Francois Rivasseau told France-2 television. "It must also be known that bars and hotels in Bali are generally very light structures . . . which resist particularly badly to an explosion."

A falloff in bookings to Indonesia has already been felt.

Two major Japanese travel agencies—JTB Corp. and Nippon Travel Agency Co.—said they canceled package tours for several hundred customers to Bali for one week starting Tuesday, and would decide Friday whether to extend the cancelations.

In Australia, travel wholesaler Creative Holidays spokesperson Emma Sturgiss said she knew of only one new booking for a Bali holiday package in the past few days.

After an initial run of cancellations, many travelers were opting to go to other destinations, she said, citing Queensland, Vanuatu, Fiji and Thailand.

European package tour operators had already announced large scale cancellations.

While the focus is now on Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim nation, the effect of the attack is likely to felt further afield.

It's already been a dicey year to promote travel in Asia.

There have been kidnappings in the Philippines by Muslim militants. Muslim extremist activity has emerged in Malaysia, Indonesia and even tiny Singapore, where a group of people alleged to have links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida group were arrested and accused of plotting terrorist acts against Western targets.

Travel professionals are putting the best face on the situation.

"It will come as no surprise that we anticipate reaction and a downturn in the short to medium term," Ken Scott, spokesperson for the Pacific Asia Travel Association, said Tuesday.

"However, I would not be surprised if the bounce-back period shortens if international travelers start getting hardened to this as a backdrop to modern living," referring to terrorist incidents such as the bombing.

Pata has two upcoming events planned in Indonesia, a sustainable tourism conference scheduled for next week near the Indonesian capital Jakarta, and its annual conference, scheduled to take place in Bali next April. It currently plans to proceed with both.

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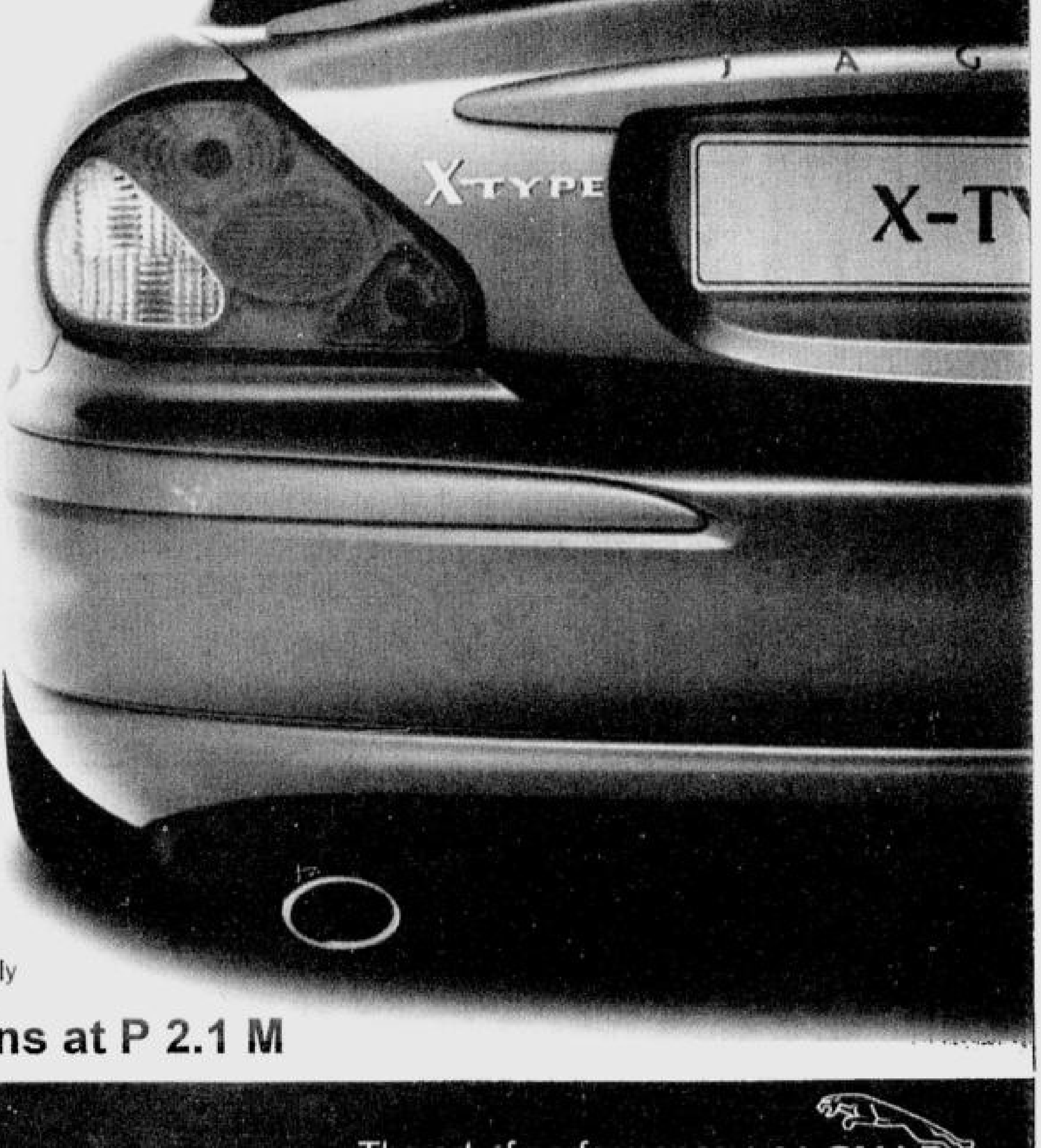

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RP has 21 bets at London Int'l Ad Awards

By Roger Pe
Contributor

THE PHILIPPINES has had very fruitful experiences in the London International Advertising Awards, which receives more than 17,000 entries from around the globe annually. It bagged a Grand Prix for print in 1997 (Ogilvy & Mather's "Say No To Coke" for Pepsi) and emerged with two more winners in 1999 (BBDO-Guerrero/Ortega's "Electric Fan" for Bayfresh and "Bembol" for its self-promotion ad). Through the years, it has consistently landed in the finals, giving maverick Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, even Malaysia, a run for their creative juices. Will the Philippines pocket another winner this year? We will find out in two weeks time.

Less than one percent of total entries are honored by Liaa, which makes it one of the toughest in the world. No gold, silver and bronze winners are proclaimed. Just winners and finalists. Winners receive a solid bronze winged statue of a man which has become synonymous with global excellence in advertising, as well as an official certificate. All finalists in each category all get certificates.

Judging system

The judges judge alone. No partisan block-voting. No distractions. No peer pressure, no time constraints. And no negative "influences" of the usual award show judging room. Each judge has several weeks, not several minutes, to make a decision. Judges are top-ranked professionals in their disciplines and bring a truly international perspective to their assignment. Score sheets are transmitted direct to the organizers and even the judges do not know who the winners are.

An entry must receive an average score of 7.5 points out of maximum 10 points to the make it to the final round. That makes a piece of paper from London worth more than a metal from elsewhere.

Here is the official list of Philippine finalists in the 2002 London International Advertising Awards:

TBWA-Santiago Mangada & Puno
- Adidas "Labor Day"
- Shangrila Hotel "Boat"
- Absolut Direct Mail "Absolut Revelation"
- TBWA Self-Promotion Ad "Road"

LOWE WORLDWIDE
- Domex Campaign
- Domex "Toilet Bowl" Domex "Lemon"
- Domex "Bathroom Sink", Domex Kitchen Sink"
- Domex "Showerhead"

OGILVY & MATHER
- The Economist "No Middle-ground"
- The Economist "Blade"
- Nagaraya "Dentist"

LEO BURNETT
- McDonald's "Lolo"
- McDonald's "Dada"

BBDO-GUERRERO/ORTEGA
- Visa "Dining Out"
- Visa "Dining Out" Sound Design

McCANN-ERICKSON
- Modess "Filo"
- Coke "Sunglasses"

WINNERS get a solid bronze winged victory.

DDB PHILIPPINES
- Robinson's MovieWorld "Eggs"

J. WALTER THOMPSON
- Close-Up "Trash Can"

CAMPAIGNS & GREY
- Seattle's Best "Foreplay"

ACE-SAATCHI & SAATCHI
- Manila Pen "Indian Festival"

Jury president for 2002 Liaa is Paul Lavoie from Montreal, Canada. He is the person behind a Cannes Lion for Covenant House's "Bus Shelter" and One Show, Clio and London International Advertising Awards, plus D & AD accolades for Molson's "Wheelchair."

The awards ceremony will be held on Nov. 11, 2002 at Royal Lancaster Hotel.

The Philippine presentation of 2002 London International Advertising Awards will be held in March next year with Barbara Levy and Danielle Steerie, president and vice president, respectively of London International Advertising Awards personally attending the show.

It's like driving a Ferrari [illegible] he Autobahn.

When the Internet started as a simple network of computers used mainly by scientists, researchers and academics, no one predicted it would turn into a new global medium. The World Wide Web, the most-often accessed part of the Internet, has sites that equal (sometimes, exceed) the broadcast media in terms of production values and visual style, while the contents rival that of found in print.

Plug-ins such as Flash, Shockwave, RealAudio, among others heighten the Internet experience. No wonder everyday, millions of people jump into the so-called Information Superhighway a.k.a the Infobahn, to access things like up-to-the-second news to episode guides of their favorite TV series, walkthroughs of their favorite computer games to more esoteric stuff like Alyssa Milano movie trailers, proof of alien life photos and Styx lyrics. With such a wealth of information available, it's not surprising that this virtual freeway will be jammed. Since, like its real life counterpart, the more users, the more congested it will be. Also, the more flash (pun intended), the heavier the website will be. Which means, if your hook-up to the Web isn't optimal, downloading the site on your PC can be as fun as watching paint dry. In other words, ordinary dial-up connections just don't cut it anymore.

Speed through the infobahn

This is where a PLDT myDSL connection comes in handy. Imagine waiting for 6 hours downloading that rare Pearl Jam audition MP3 using your dial-up, when your sister picks up the phone to use it. Unfortunately for you, murder is still a crime. But if you have myDSL, not only you can download MP3s in a breeze, you can also chat while doing so. All while your little sister is talking on the phone with her friend about her supposedly Josh Hartnett-looking crush. However, with the unlimited time and dedicated time you have online, your brother (or son) will have a difficult time going back to the real world after spending days and nights in virtual worlds like EverQuest or battle.net. W[illegible], you don't
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victory song[illegible]ming and video
audio(skipping[illegible]so 90's). You can
immortalize the Mr. Roboto dance number you did in your last reunion in Quicktime video, and upload it in your family's website for everybody's enjoyment. You can also put your library of self-composed MP3s and just hope somebody will download it.

More time to do other things

Since you can surf and call at the same time, you'll shave off hours and surely be spending more time on the Web, not because of the waiting, but because you'll be zipping to and fro inside the digital realm using multiple windows. You can discover more of those obscure websites (or host one using your PC!), as you lose yourself in cyberspace, since there's no time limit, no roadblocks, just a free, unhindered and high-velocity ride in the techie version of the Autobahn. So whatever your business in the Net, it's done in a snap. Which means, you can spend more time with your family and yourself. Ultimately, you'll be living a better, more enriched life, courtesy of PLDT myDSL.

Get PLDT myDSL and save at least P4,500!

With that said, there is no reason for you and your family not to hook up with PLDT myDSL. PLDT's extended offer of free installation and free one-month subscription is too juicy to pass up. That's an easy P4,500 savings at least. All you have to do is be a PLDT post-paid landline subscriber living in a DSL-capable area (a PLDT Tech team will visit your home and determine if your line is DSL-ready). Definitely, it's the best time to connect to the country's premier high-velocity residential broadband internet service - PLDT myDSL. For more info, check out the details below.

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Trend Spotting

What lies ahead for Philippine haute couture?

ALTHOUGH I've covered fashion all these years, my generation, and certainly the younger ones, are no haute-couture babies. We're a ready-to-wear generation, not made-to-order. We have neither the lifestyle nor the budget for high couture.

But I study haute-couture fashion primarily because the lives of Chanel and Saint Laurent fascinate me no end. I cover haute couture because the works and, more so, the public and not-so-public lives of Filipino designers fascinate me just as much. I can wear haute couture because these designers are my good friends, have been such for decades, and one of them has been my best friend for more than three decades now.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

> Going to fittings is an experience the younger generation must try

To this day, whenever I go to **Auggie Cordero**, my best friend, for my fitting, our exchange rivals the dialogue in any long-running sitcom/drama ("Friends" and "Sex and the City" combined). Always, I leave my ego at the door of his atelier, where I turn into a doormat.

I'm not into public self-flagellation, so I will not reconstruct it here. But to give you an idea, always he insists that my hip measurement is actually my waistline.

That bad. And that's not our name-calling yet. When he's in an icon-branding mood and I insist I want a design à la Audrey Hepburn—his goddess, by the way, as the whole city knows by now—he tells me I should just wait for when he's Elizabeth Taylor-inspired, the Taylor of today, not of "National Velvet."

Just last week, when stranded in the flash floods, I gave him a call and reminded him that he promised to make me a power suit with pants—long-sleeved, two- or three-buttoned, pin-striped, very corporate—he said

WHAT / p. D2

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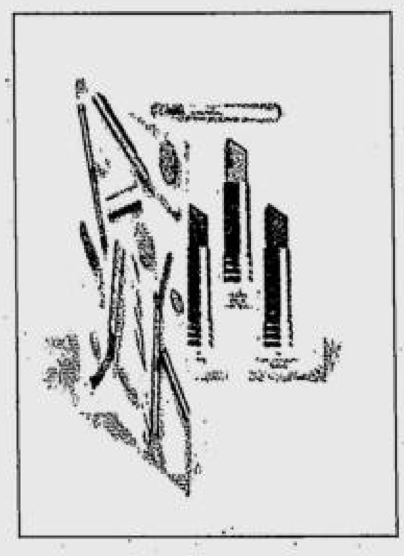

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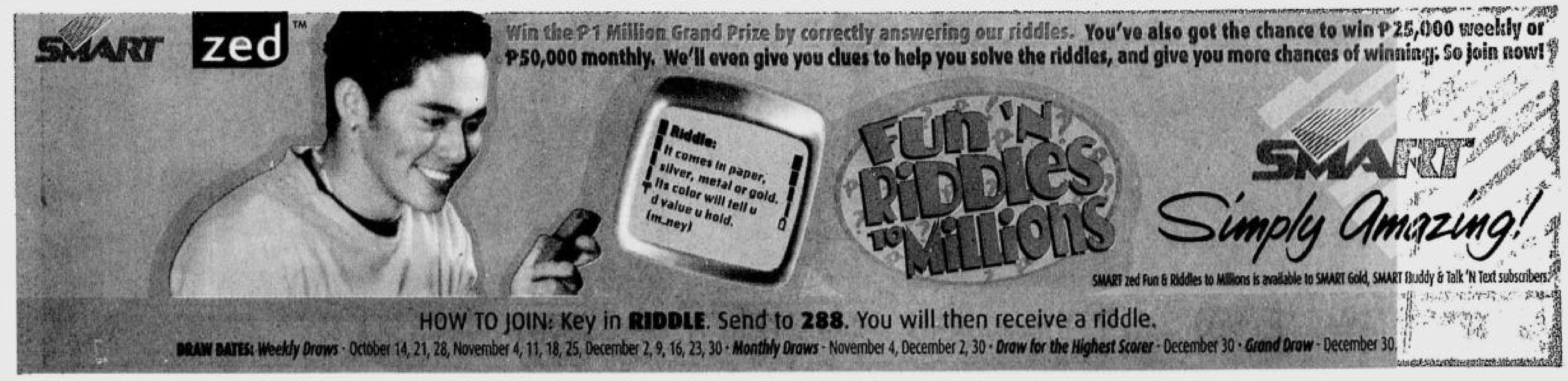

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What lies ahead for Philippine haute couture?

From page D1

he'd just designed what he thought would fit me perfectly. Deconstructed, as in Yohji Yamamoto and Gaultier, with slashes on the pants and—hear this—architectured bustle for my butt. Perfect for board meetings, he said.

I should have pressed my Nokia shut right there and then, but then with the waters rising to my car tires, I had no voice with which to scream at him.

Experience and privilege

But seriously, fitting for made-to-order clothes by Auggie, **Pitoy Moreno** or **Inno Sotto** (who holds my figure in higher regard, by the way, than my own best friend does), no matter that I do it only once or twice a year, is not only an experience, but also a privilege—something I wish other women my age or younger girls could go through even if only once in their lives. It gives you a glimpse into the labor and art of Philippine fashion, and the devotion to detail and craftsmanship that, of course, is passing away with the era.

As their expert *costurera* pins a sleeve in its exact place, not a centimeter away, or marks the fold of your pants to show just the perfect height of your heels, you feel that you are part of a masterpiece in progress. And this process of creativity is, of course, something you'll never see in the retail stores in the mall.

Apart from all this, what I consider my better luck, brought about by my work, is that I had the chance to visit a few times the atelier/home of an institution in Philippine haute couture, **Josefina "Inang" Gonzales** of the House of R. T. Paras, had sumptuous lunches there, and let her staff take my measurements for a suit. Now that last part was an encounter I'll always remember.

It happened more than two years ago. After I did a story on the homecoming of her only child, **Roy**, who had a successful stint in Paris, as designer of the House of Jean Patou—the only Filipino, so far, who's gone that far in the world fashion capital—Ms Gonzales invited me over for lunch.

Now, lunch in the '50s-architecture sprawling bungalow of the House of R. T. Paras in Quezon City is never an eat-and-go affair. Like in the days of old, it's always a feast, every day, where Inang, another family member, **Clarita** and their staff of maybe 50 years, all sit down at the table together for several courses.

The House of R. T. Paras is a Pampango home—that alone should give you an idea of the sumptuousness of the meal, the kind that gives you no choice but to take your siesta afterward since you're filled to the neck. That noon, I remember, we had *adobo, laing, rellenong bangus, kare-kare* and a selection of desserts that included leche flan. Typically, I didn't resist the temptation.

The meal over and the burping done ever so subtly (if that was at all possible), Inang asked me to stand from the table so—listen to this—Clarita could take my measurements.

What! My eyes did the exclamation, not my lips. But my middle felt not only like an excess luggage, but an entire 10-wheeler cargo. You couldn't say no to Inang.

So I stood there as the tape measure did its work. "Iha, *madaya ka palang tingnan*," Inang told me, her eyes taking in my figure in my completely black shift, her most motherly charm winning me over completely and making me ignore the numbers from the tape measure.

But, of course, there was no way my waistline could have turned 23 after that feast (not that it was ever that).

She said she would make a suit for me because she wanted me to try the House of R. T. Paras, which my generation had not been acquainted with. Then, as Roy and I resumed our chat, Inang repaired to her room for siesta.

Oldest couture house

A while later, as I had to use the restroom, I was let into her room, where I caught a glimpse of her lying on her huge bed, amid the décor and life-long possessions of a woman who came from the genteel and gracious eras of the '40s and the '50s. As I looked at her asleep, I felt privileged to have come that close to a pillar of Philippine fashion—a woman who had dressed no less than four generations of Filipino women, and whose legacy is the oldest surviving couture house in the country.

The House of R. T. Paras is 100 years old this year. Inang was the daughter of Pampango-born **Roberta Tablante Paras**, who started making clothes for women in pre-war years. Roberta's pioneering venture brought her from Pampanga to Binondo and, finally, Quezon City, where the House is already a landmark.

(The House will mark its centenary, and Inang's 90 years in the business, with a dinner-dance on Nov. 9 at The NBC Tent. The House clientele should be there, including the four generations of Araneta women—**Doña Esther**, her daughters **Baby Forés** and **Judy Roxas**, granddaughters **Margarita Forés** and **Ria**; the Gregorios of Gregg shoes and the Cojuangcos. High-society icon **Imelda Cojuangco** is among her most loyal clients.)

Inang asked me to return for my fitting. I never got to. She died more than a year later, after our lunch.

Roy has made good his word to his mother that he would settle down in the country, after 38 years of haute-couture study and career in Paris—first with Pierre Cardin, then with the House of Jean Patou as its chief designer, and, from the '80s to the '90s, at Lecoanet Hemant. Roy is continuing the House of R. T. Paras.

I did return, however, to visit Roy at the House a month ago when, finally, I had my fitting. I saw Roy at work, supervising the placements of the pins on my body. The process was utmost meticulousness, it was a learning experience for me.

As it went on, I thought what a great pity that today's girls may not know the feeling of having clothes fitted and sewn especially for them.

Roy would point to the last detail—pintucking here, folding there—including how high the organza collar should rise, how the sleeve should ride the right spot of the shoulder bone, the correct length of the breast tuck and so on. Roy was trained in the revered tradition of Parisian haute couture, an institution itself whose strength is being tested in this era of mass retail and luxury brands.

I wonder now about the direction of Philippine haute couture itself. Pitoy Moreno is an institution, not only in fashion but also in society, and so are **Ben Farrales, Joe Salazar, Nolie Hans**, Auggie, Inno. I know that these guys are still so much in demand. Their clientele is there.

Younger generation

But looking down the road, I wonder: How are they connecting to the younger generation that no longer wears the heavily beaded gowns? A generation that's not into dressing up, but into underdressing, even undressing. A generation that's satisfied with tubes, spaghetti straps, midribs, pipe-tight clothes.

Most of all, this is a generation that will not spend the prices of the haute couture designers. They will, however, go for the rates of the younger ones.

This generation has no time for fittings. They suffer from time-famine.

Also, the lifestyle that nurtured haute couture is not intact. The balls, the formal dances and dinners, the museum openings. Most of them went the way of Imelda Marcos. From the Cory Aquino era on, the politically correct thing was not to wear your wealth, at least not all the time. Drop-dead glamour became a thing of the past, which wasn't even fully revived in Erap's time.

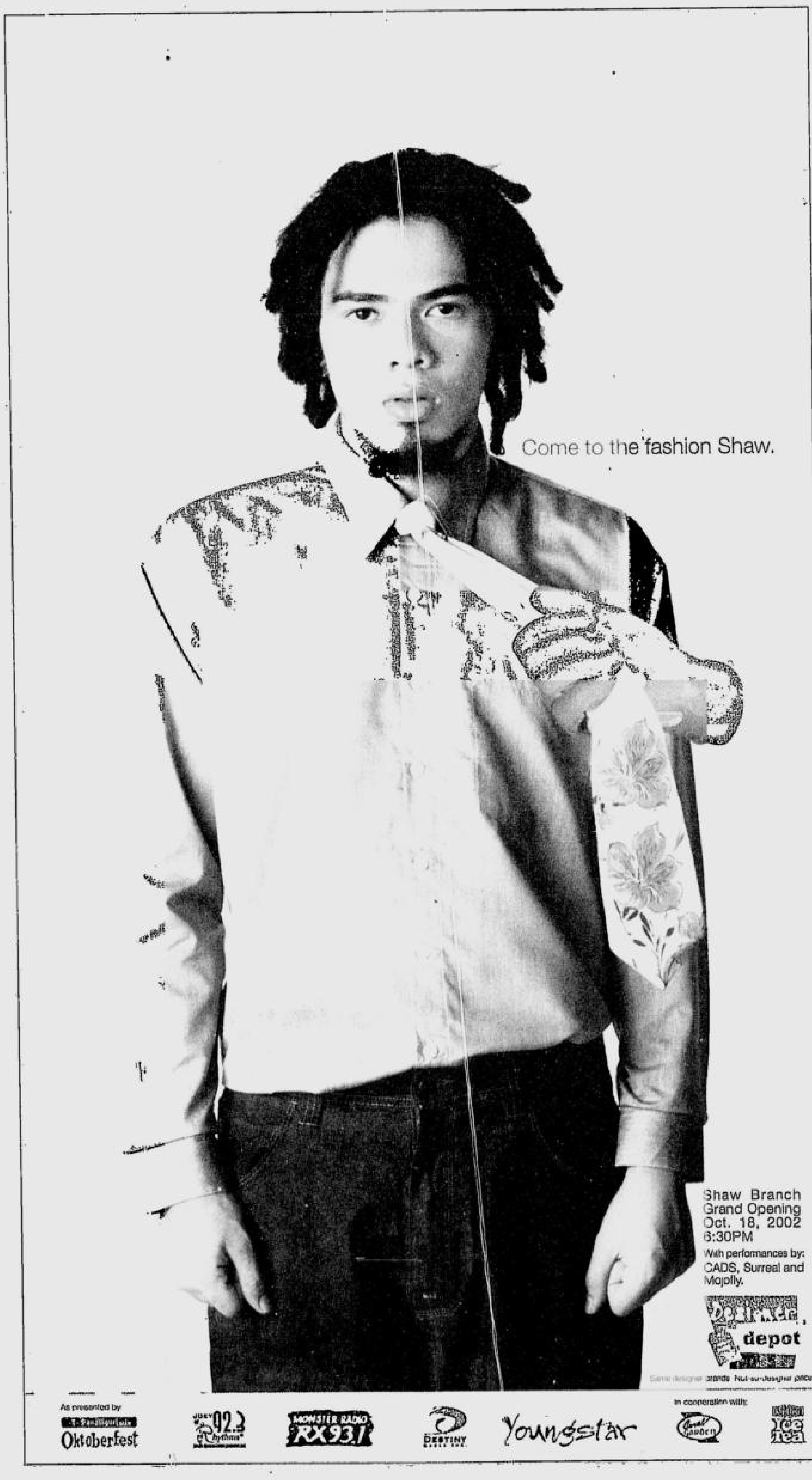
So where can you wear haute couture these days? The weddings market isn't enough to sustain the couture industry.

Reinvention is perhaps the direction Philippine haute couture can take in a landscape that's been overrun by mass retail, luxury brands and smuggled clothes from China.

It should be interesting to see what market is left out there.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@skyinet.net

ROY and mom Inang Gonzales posed beside the portrait of Roberta Tablante Paras for a 1998 photo.



BAYO boutique at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall

New store branches opt for minimalist look

MINIMALISM is in, judging by the look two new Bayo stores are sporting.

The homegrown fashion retailer that won recently the Outstanding Retailer of 2002 award from the Philippine Retailer's Association and the Department of Trade and Industry have opened new outlets at The Podium in Ortigas Center and at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Bayo's two new stores go for the simple and clean look. In line with current trends, they go for minimalism, as evidenced by the use of open ceilings and muted walls. Stainless steel and glass fittings are combined with dark stained wood to accomplish the chic spare appearance.

Beautiful black-and-white Raymund Isaac photographs of image model Lea Salonga, taken in New York, are scattered throughout the stores. Accent lighting creates a dramatic effect and directs the shopper's eye to the displayed garments. Instead of overpowering Bayo's pretty ready-to-wear, the smart lighting serves to highlight them even more.

The season's collection is predominantly white, with a sprinkling of basic colors inspired by the prairie look and Gypsy chic. Eyelets and voile are combined with denim, basic blouses and tees, and low-rider pants. Embellishments are lace, crochet, smocks, embroidery and ruffles.

The 10-year-old Bayo now has 23 branches all over the Philippines, including three franchises in Iloilo, Cebu and Pampanga. A Bayo store will soon open in SM Bicutan.

BAYO boutique in The Podium at Ortigas Center

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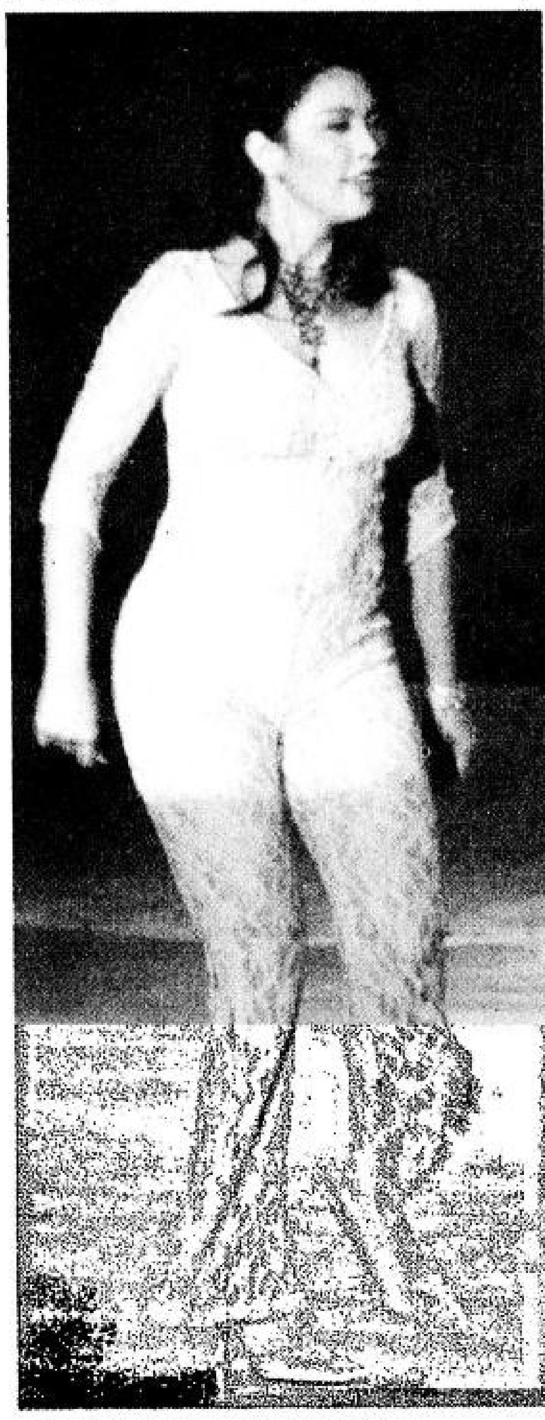
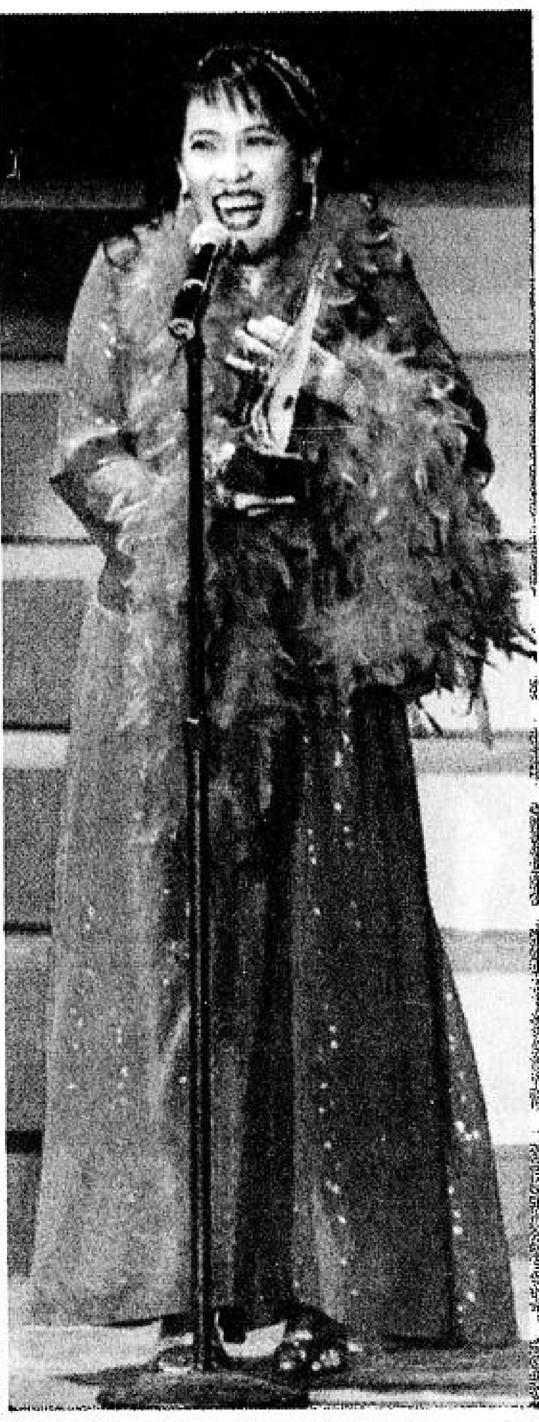
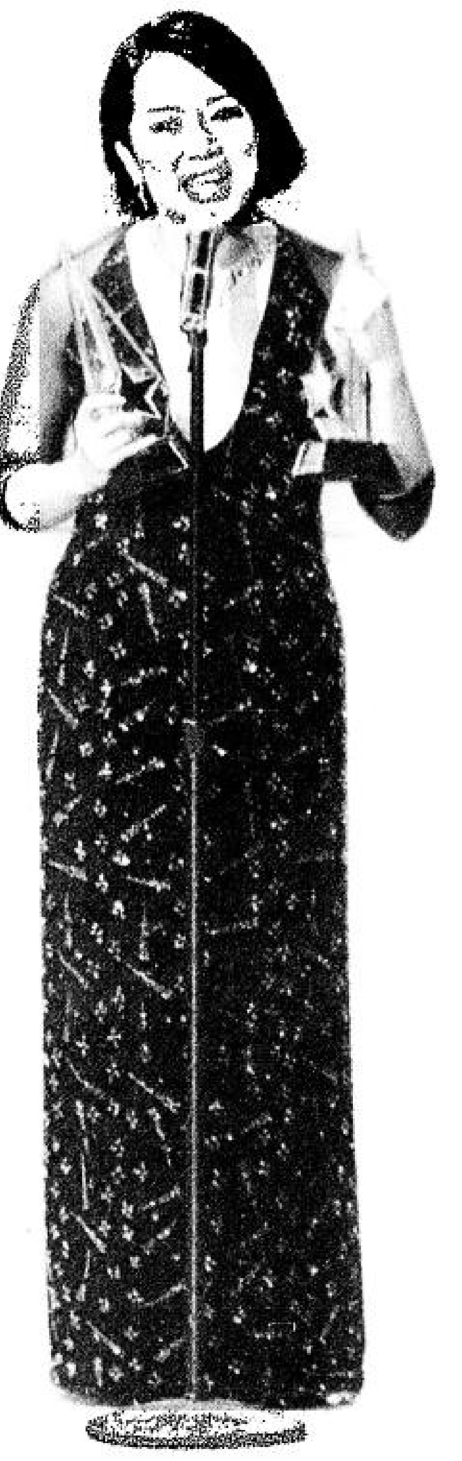
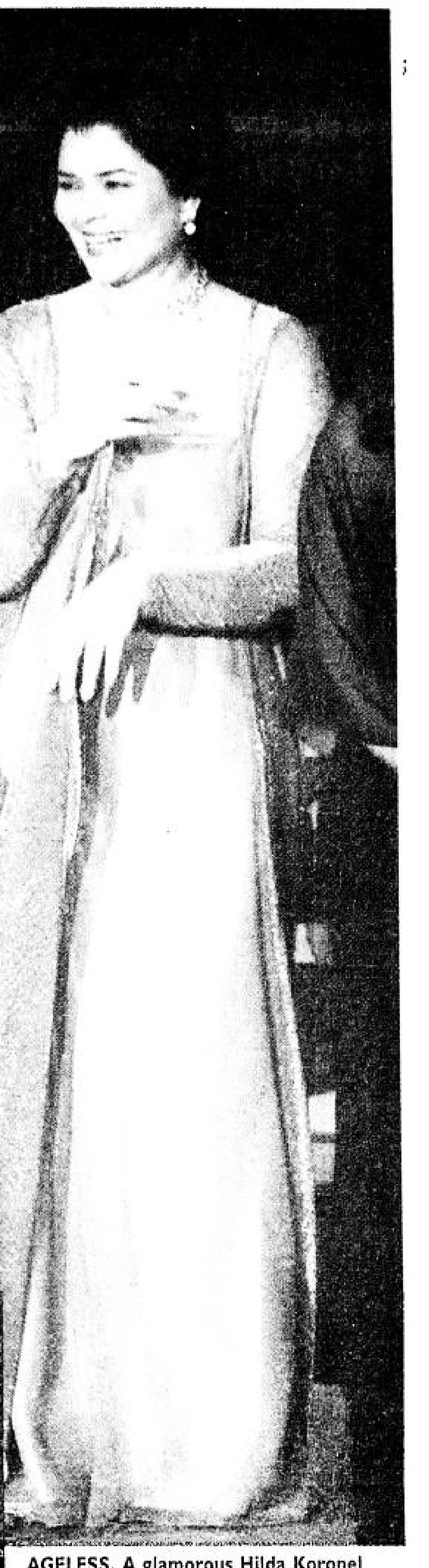
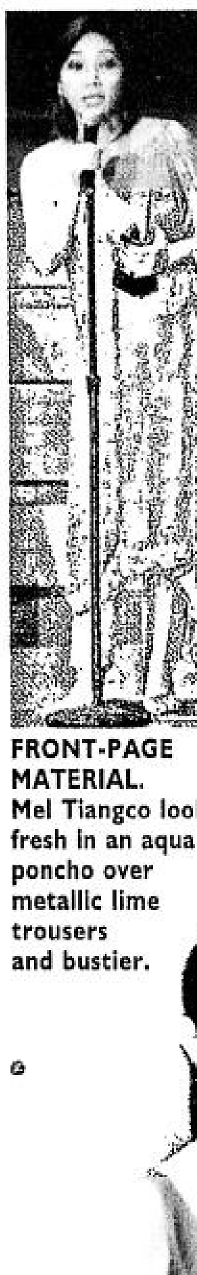

TOO MUCH. Pops Fernandez in an unflattering see-through piece


Ai Ai de las Alas sure looks laughable—and deliberately so.


OOOPS! Kris Aquino elicits some laughs with her controversial acceptance speech. The view from behind, however, wasn't as funny.


AGELESS. A glamorous Hilda Koronel upstages her much younger peers.

Starry, starry blight


FRONT-PAGE MATERIAL. Mel Tiangco looks fresh in an aqua poncho over metallic lime trousers and bustier.

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

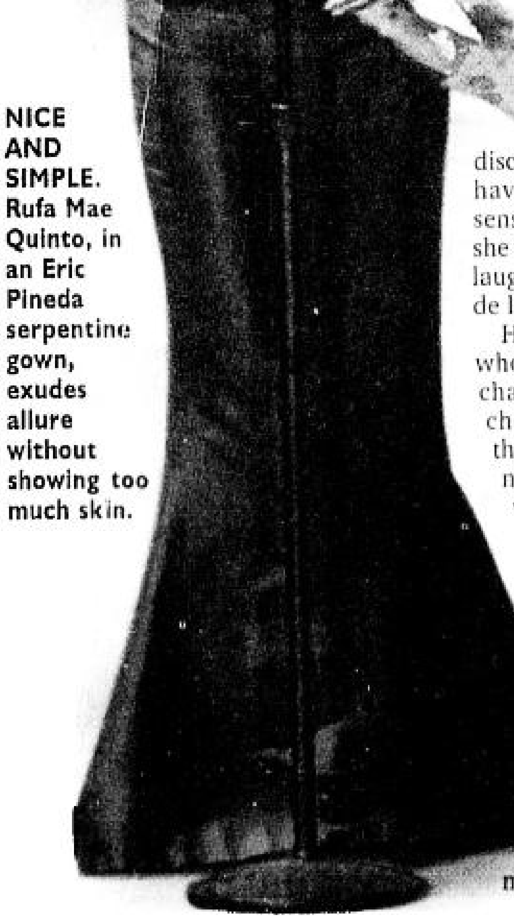
THE STYLE parade in last Saturday's PMPC Star Awards for Television was quite a good mix of the pleasant and the ghastly, with the almost-but-not-quite kind wedged somewhere in-between.

There was the conspicuously red-clad bunch. Sure, they stood out as a pack (for, in red, how could they not?), but sadly not individually. We actually thought there was some pre-holiday let's-all-dress-up-like-Santa theme going on. They all looked the same, so we'll leave it at that.

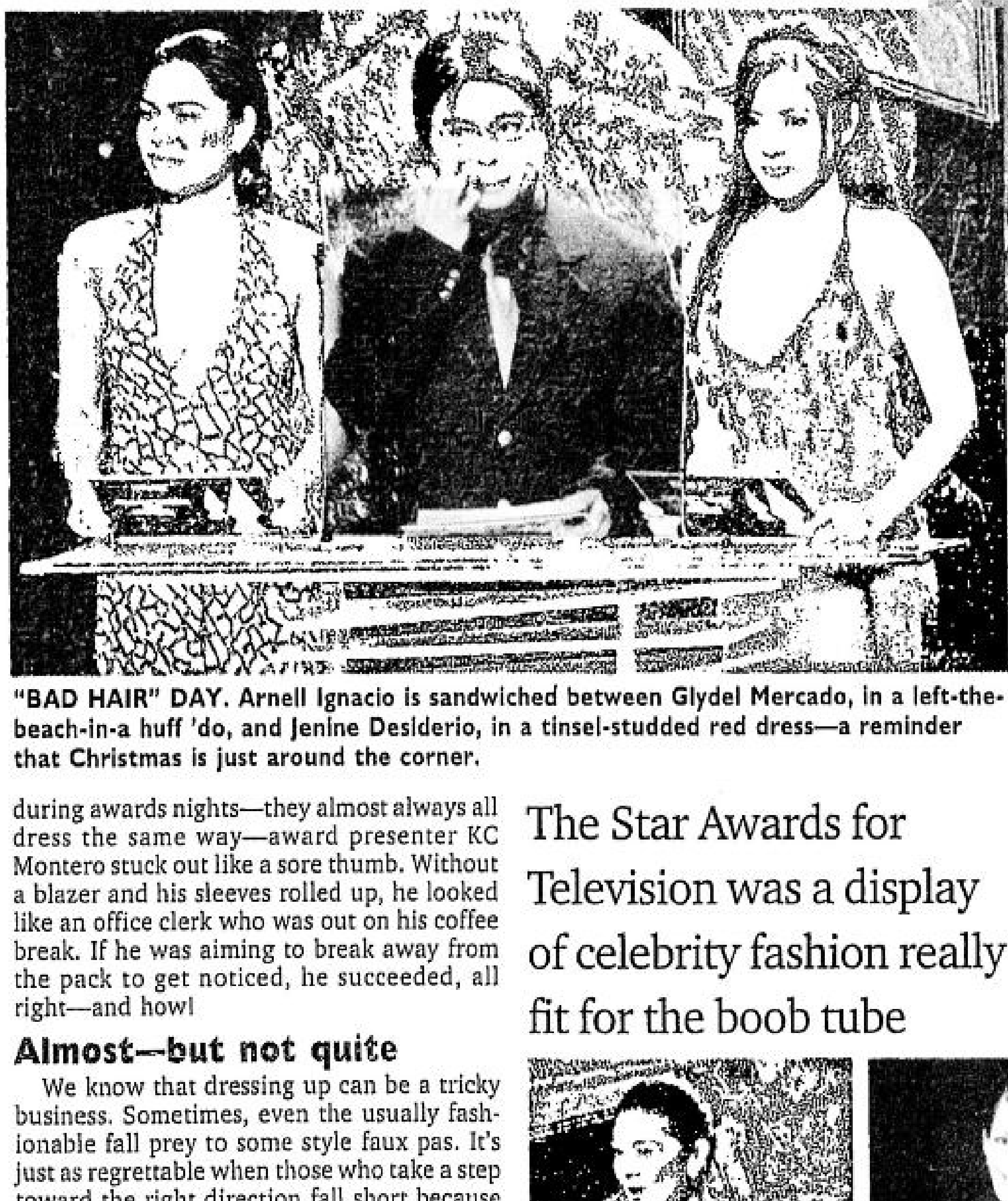
When movie stars, whose business is, for the most part, to look good, show up in unspeakably atrocious-looking clothes and 'dos in an awards night, we can't help but suspect they hate the viewing public, and that's their rather bizarre way of expressing it—for five nauseating hours at that!

With a deeply sun-tanned face gleaming like glazed ceramic, something was clearly amiss with Glydel Mercado's hair-plastered-to-the-skull bit. She looked like she left the beach in a huff without bothering to hit the showers. We won't even go into the really glamorous beaded "sundress" she seemed to have haphazardly slipped into. Ditto for Janice de Belen, who, after losing a good deal of extra pounds, could have tried a slinkier number than the matronly *palda't blusa* she wore.

Even the usually well-dressed Pops Fernandez made us cringe from the lace see-through she wore in her production number. We flinched as extra flesh folded at her every move. Surely, someone with her perceived discriminating taste could have been given a more sensible advice? After all, she wasn't fishing for some laughs like comedian Ai Ai de las Alas.


NICE AND SIMPLE. Rufa Mae Quinto, in an Eric Pineda serpentine gown, exudes allure without showing too much skin.

How about bold stars who put on clothes for a change? With appalling choices, they seem to think will pass off as eveningwear, we wonder why they even bother? Camille Roxas and Ramona Rivilla should have they left their clothes at home that evening. Better yet, they should have stayed home.


"BAD HAIR" DAY. Arnell Ignacio is sandwiched between Glydel Mercado, in a left-the-beach-in-a huff 'do, and Jenine Desiderio, in a tinsel-studded red dress—a reminder that Christmas is just around the corner.

While we hardly bother giving male celebs a once-over during awards nights—they almost always all dress the same way—award presenter KC Montero stuck out like a sore thumb. Without a blazer and his sleeves rolled up, he looked like an office clerk who was out on his coffee break. If he was aiming to break away from the pack to get noticed, he succeeded, all right—and how!

The Star Awards for Television was a display of celebrity fashion really fit for the boob tube

Almost—but not quite

We know that dressing up can be a tricky business. Sometimes, even the usually fashionable fall prey to some style faux pas. It's just as regrettable when those who take a step toward the right direction fall short because they fail to pay close attention to details.

In a sea of pretty faces, Angel Aquino's charm is easily a standout. But the beaded corset accent of her black gown was sorely disappointing. It looked lopsided and ill-fitted. The rumpled material of her skirt didn't look right, either.

While there was essentially nothing wrong with Regine Velasquez's black scoop square-neck ball gown, we got a peek at her shoes and we almost had a heart attack. Chunky pairs with wooden heels are best worn with street clothes and casuals—and the rule applies even if they're from Prada! Albeit it made her look a tad hefty, we liked better the orange piece she wore for her song number. (But we'll take that comment back if she wore the same pair of clogs.)

We were initially impressed to see a slimmer Kris Aquino in a beaded black piece. But when she turned around to go backstage, we were aghast at the unsightly vision of the top of her stockings peeking through the high slit of her skirt. Her "*sa akin na lang iyon*" speech was amusing, sure, but that sight certainly wasn't.

Worth every carat

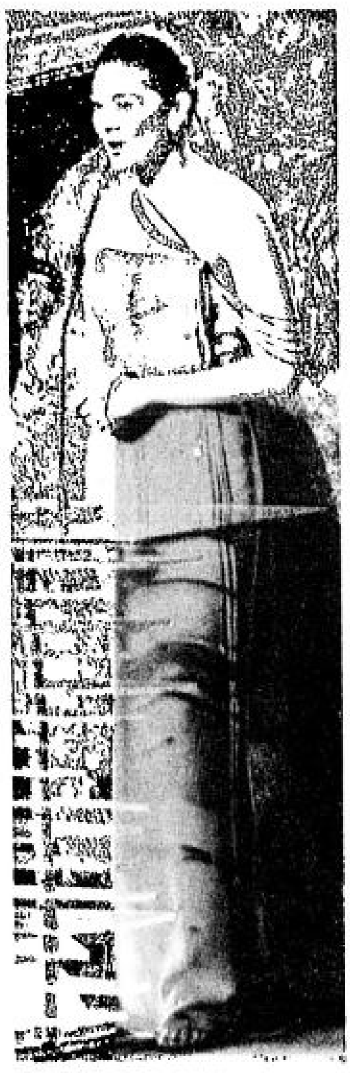
Gretchen Barretto was worth every carat of the gems she wore that night. Wearing a tiara with her black gown early in the evening, she looked even more divine when she went to accept her Star of the Night award in a luscious pink confection.

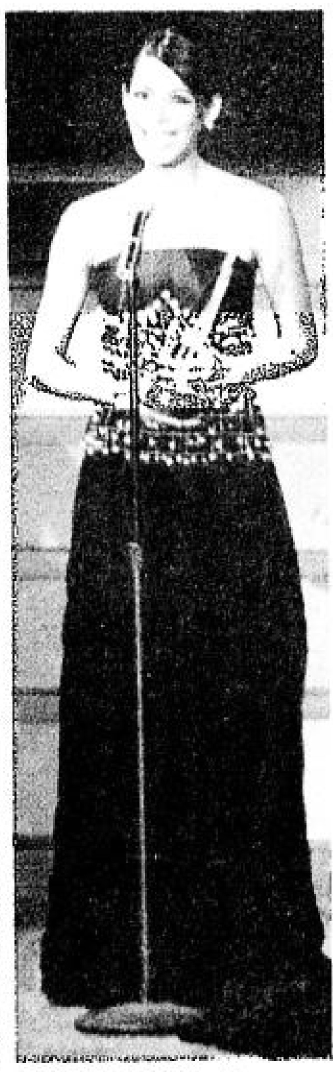
TV host and former beauty queen Miriam Quiambao was equally a sight to behold in a black sheath with Oriental-inspired gold appliqués. She looked perfect down to the choice of accessories.

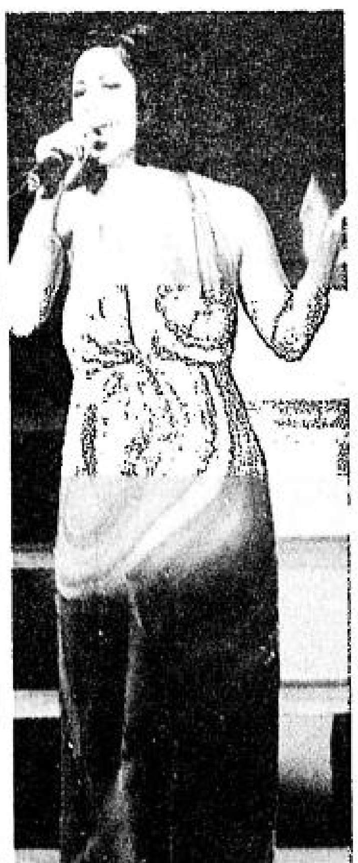
We didn't get to see Regine Tolentino up close, but from where we were seated, she did justice to her back-baring gray number that was held up by long, twisted strips of materials, reminding us of Gianfranco Ferré's collection for next summer.

Veteran actress Hilda Koronel was sheer glamour in a beaded opera coat. Gone was the nubile bod from some decades back, but she didn't succumb to frumpy old-lady duds. Definitely aging gracefully, she knew better than to slip into a body-skimming, flesh-baring number fit for girls half her age, which some celebs of poorer judgment are wont to do.

"Unang Hirit" host Rhea Santos was lovely in the simplicity of her black-and-white column gown. Had she used chunkier baubles to go with her dress, she could have easily upstaged the *artistas* that evening.


SEEING RED. With a host of red-clad celebs around, only her regal bearing sets Charlene Gonzales apart.


FALLEN ANGEL. How can lovely Angel Aquino go wrong? We blame the dress.


"WELL-HEELED" IS SHE? It's a nice Pucci-print halter gown, but the wearer, Regine Velasquez, looks fleshy. Dare we ask what she's shod with?

Free workshop to empower and educate women

COSMOPOLITAN goes to WORK with Women and the City

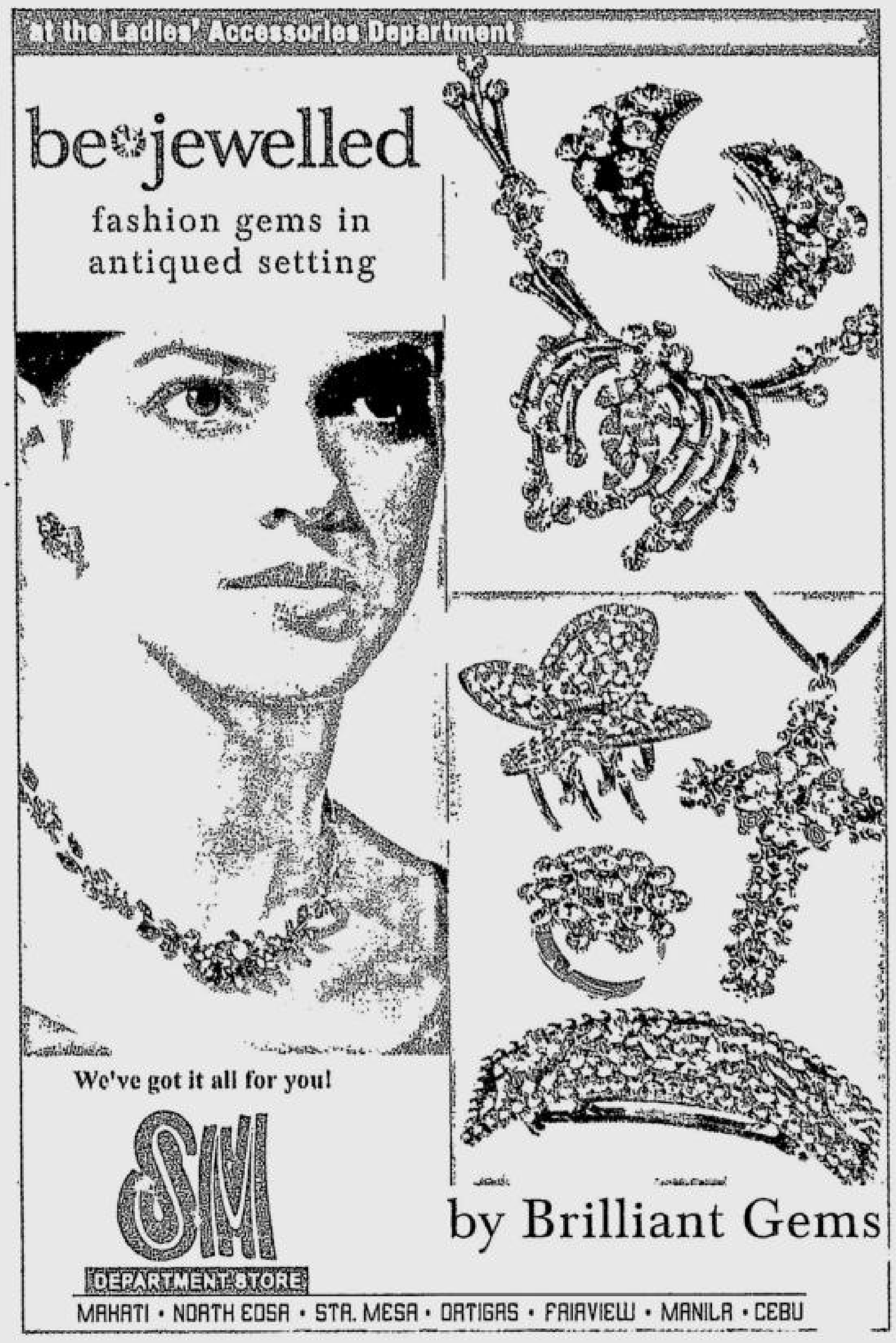
A Woman's Workshop on Self-Improvement

LADIES who are 18-35 years old will have a chance to spend an enriching day tomorrow as Cosmopolitan Magazine and One Woman Show Inc. present a free workshop that aims to empower and educate women.

The event, dubbed "Cosmopolitan Goes to Work with Women and the City," will be held at Podium 4 of the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza in Makati, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Invited speakers will share their expertise on various subjects that are relevant to women. Former beauty queen and TV personality Miriam Quiambao will conduct an in-depth discussion on how to preserve beauty with inner wellness. Certified personal fitness trainers Paolo Villaroel and Cheska Tiu-Laurel of Core Fitness will demonstrate the Pilates exercise, while taekwondo champion Monsour del Rosario, together with instructor Louie Domingo, will teach basic self-defense techniques. Model and image enhancement expert Olen Lim will demonstrate what every woman should know about poise and projection, plus she will host a segment featuring the latest collection of Style@Work by Dockers. Makeup stylist Lala Flores will share her knowledge on proper skin care and makeup application, while finance wiz Terri Agustin will give tips on how to manage your hard-earned money.

The event is free of charge. To join, just fax your name, age, occupation, office address, home and office telephone numbers, e-mail address and cell phone number to 637-2206. You can also e-mail cosmopromos@summitmedia.com.ph, or text FN JOIN WORK <cell phone number> <full name> <age> <office or home tel.> <e-mail address> and send it to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart).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MARITHE and Francois Girbaud

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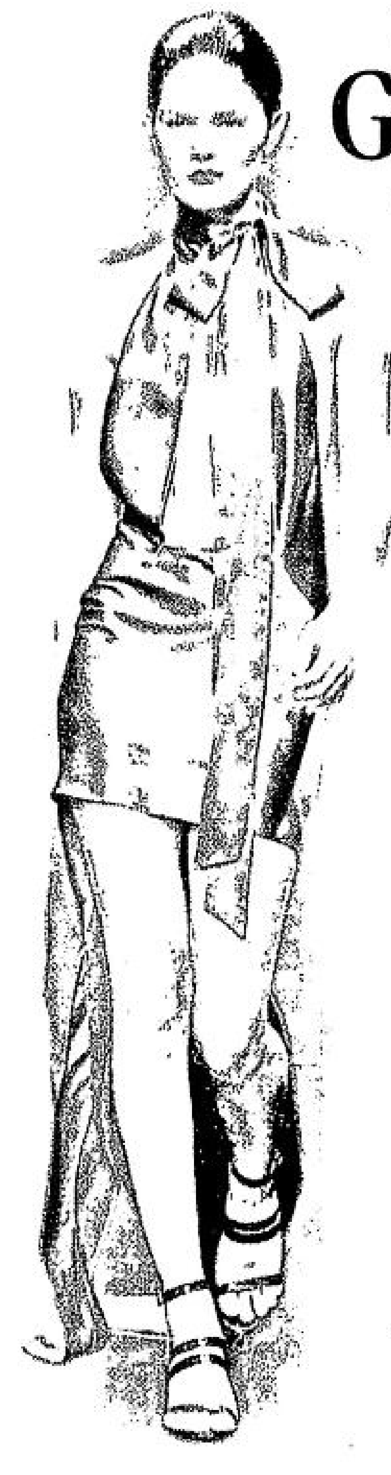
MARITHE and Francois Girbaud

PARIS FASHION WEEK

Girbaud bounces back, while Cerruti slinks forward



CERRUTI

PARIS—Marithe and Francois Girbaud, never frightened of the fold, scrunched, bunched and crinkled a panoply of fabrics on Wednesday in a collection dedicated to movement.

The ready-to-wear duo, who brought humanity the stone-washed jean and taught skinny models to wear baggy pants, used dancers strung along red rubber bands to accent their credo: "Move to live free."

The fold—the central defining element that separates clothing from the cloth—was teased out in both synthetic and natural fibers, with hand-embroidered cotton tops and a healthy dose of denim.

The couple's clothes seemed to have been born already worn and invited onlookers to see them as visual vehicles for street sports, free-spirited travel and constant movement.

Especially fresh-faced young things defined the urban universe of the French designers, who spend their time between New York, Milan, London and Tokyo and who returned to the Paris runways last year after a five-year hiatus.

Hardly a stitch broke the smooth display at Cerruti, where Hungarian-born designer Istvan Francer displayed his first collection for the Italian house.

Francer played with the rules of the house, toying with a tradition of the masculine suit by bringing out its veiled femininity.

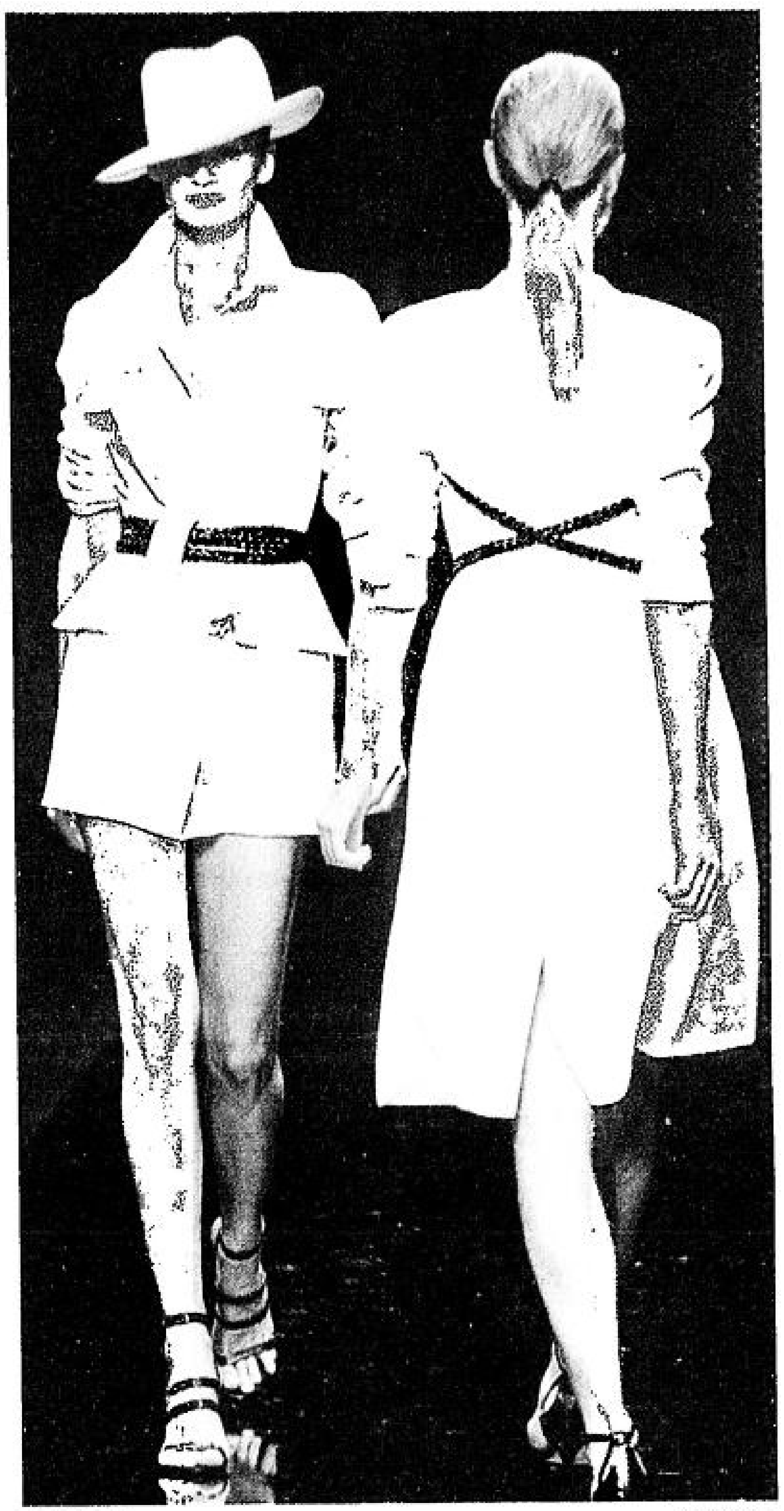
Part Marlene Dietrich, part Greta Garbo, the "film noir" vamp in a man's smoking jacket and form-hugging jacket came to life, dressed up on the catwalk in cranberry-red lipstick and slicked-back hair.

Cerruti's woman was sure of herself, whether in a sliver of an evening satin mini-dress or a square-shoulder coat and white trouser suit.

A last nod to Casablanca days and nights on the waterfront were the fedora hats that topped white button-down dresses inspired by a cotton military trench coat. *AFP*

CERRUTI

CERRUTI



CERRUTI

PHOTOS. AFP

Young fashion designers take center stage in Paris

GIOVANNI Bedin

PARIS — After a week of spring-summer 2003 ready-to-wear shows dominated by fashion's biggest names, promising, young yet lesser-known designers took center stage in the French capital on Thursday.

Britain's Maria Grachvogel chose the sensual glamour of the Belle Epoque era as the theme for her first Paris runway show, offering a sumptuous collection of satiny evening gowns in red, black and white.

Bare backs, plunging necklines, Swarovski crystal details and skirts with high front slits screamed sex appeal, as did strappy high-heeled sandals tied around the ankles with satin ribbon.

Ribbons adorned several of Grachvogel's creations, binding the sleeves of a white blouse or trailing behind a cocktail dress.

Japan's Ohya, considered by many to be Issey Miyake's heir apparent, unveiled a collection of transparent, fluid dresses of varying lengths—mainly in white, black and a signature vibrant red.

He designs some of his creations in an innovative book format, with the pages unfolding to reveal a white slip dress covered in long-stemmed flowers or a spherical red honeycomb jacket, both worn over flowing red gowns.

Ohya, who was hired as an accessory designer by Miyake in 1992 immediately upon completing his studies, continues to design a clothing line for his mentor while developing his own ideas.

Korea's Lie Sang Bong presented a collection best described as light and airy, using silk chiffon as the basic fabric for his ethereal dresses but mixing it with bits of frayed leather, linen and open-weave knits.

The designer used beige as a starting point, later intensifying his color range to include green, yellow and red before coming full circle by the show's end to more natural hues.

Russian duo Seredin and Vasiliev, well known in Paris for their inventive haute couture designs, made a strong ready-to-wear statement with an exotic, Bollywood-inspired collection covered in mirrors and intricate embroidery.

ENZU Van

DICE Kayek

France's Riad combined his Tunisian roots with a distinctly Parisian flair to create an eclectic collection of street-smart sportswear and simple yet classy evening dresses.

Most striking were a strapless red silk dress with an unfinished hem and a flowing navy blue dress with a black satin collar, falling to the floor in handkerchief points and cinched with a low-slung belt. *AFP*

KARIM Tassi

PHOTOS: REUTERS AND AP

Make holiday shopping convenient and eventful

ROBINSONS Malls offer a list of items on sale and useful tips to make your holiday shopping convenient and eventful.

- Check out the Robinsons Malls' chainwide, mallwide midnight sale for great bargains tonight, plus the two bonus sale days tomorrow and on Oct. 20.

Shoppers and bargain hunters will have the chance to do their early Christmas shopping with a wide array of discounted items such as RTWs, toys, novelties and gift items, and many more. They will also have the chance to win the latest model Nokia 5210 cell phones by simply joining the raffle promo. With every single-receipt purchase worth P300 from any Robinsons Malls outlet, the customer will be entitled to a raffle coupon. More chances to win if the customer uses his Union Visa Card.

- Avoid the rush. Make a gift list of all recipients by categories and priorities, such as family, relatives and friends.
- Once you step in to the mall, hit the ATM counters to avoid a beeline.
- Arrive at the mall early so you can get your desired parking area.
- Make a trip to the mall multipurpose with several gift purchases planned. Then, when you reach a store that is busy, you can move to the next item in your list and return to your earlier stops.
- Some stores offer free gift-wrapping for a minimum purchase requirement. If you decide to avail of this, arrange to wrap all your purchases at one time. In doing so, find something creative to do or enjoy a delicious meal, or drop by the spa for that much-needed foot massage while your purchases are being wrapped.
- Now, if you intend to do your own wrapping, buy your materials now. You can check out these accessories in magazine and bookstore outlets in the mall.
- Avoid the last-minute rush at the post office or at your favorite courier. These outlets can also be found inside the mall.
- If you're dead tired and want to do more shopping over the weekend, avail of Manila Galleria Suites' and Manila Midtown Hotel's "two nights, get one free room" promo (for suite room deluxe only).
- Complete this shopping weekend frenzy with a relaxing movie. Check out Robinsons Movieworld's "buy three tickets, get one free" promo, which will run at Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Place Iloilo and Robinsons Starmills Pampanga. Robinsons Movieworld's Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Bacolod, on the other hand, are offering "buy four tickets, get one free" promo.

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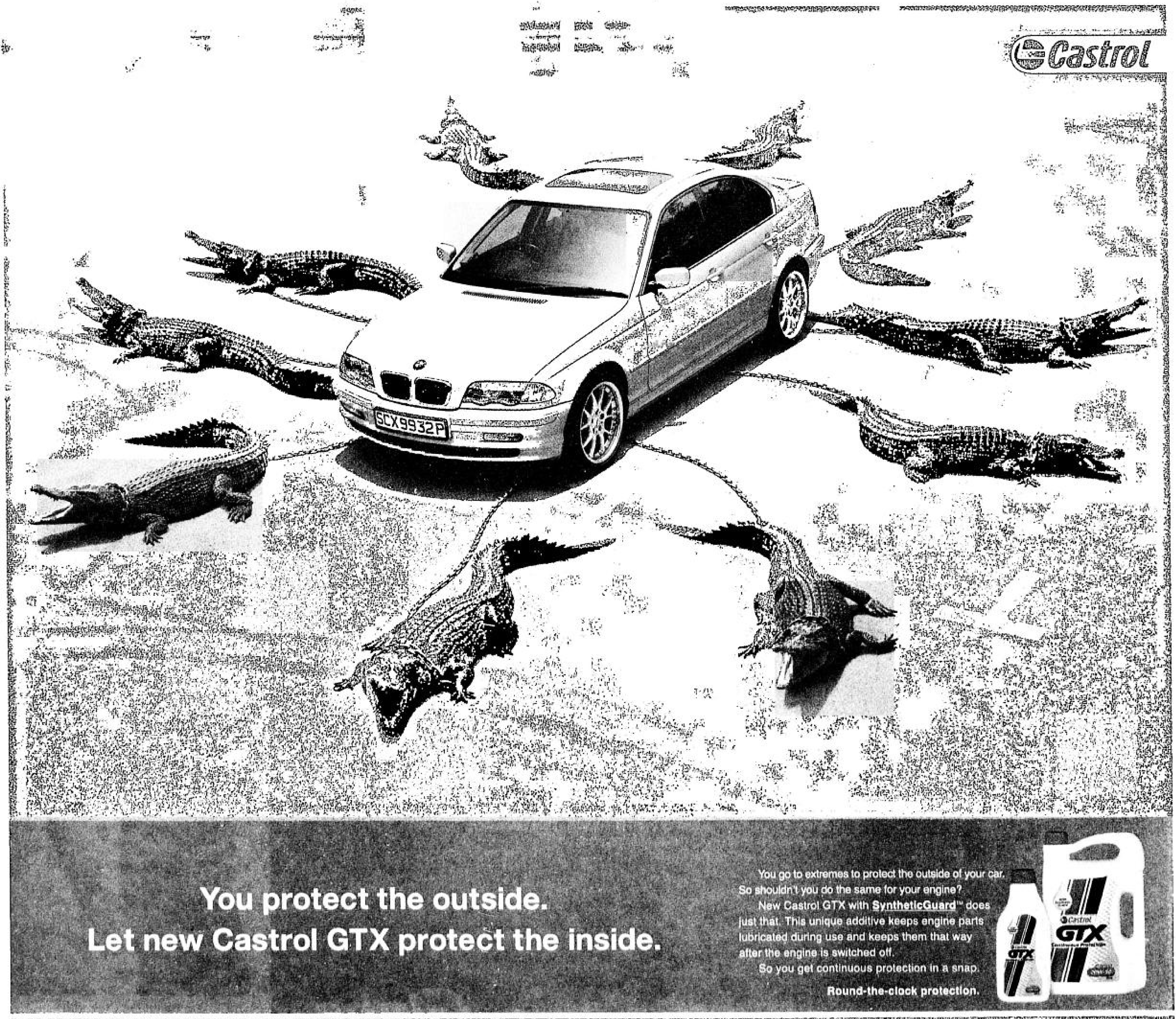

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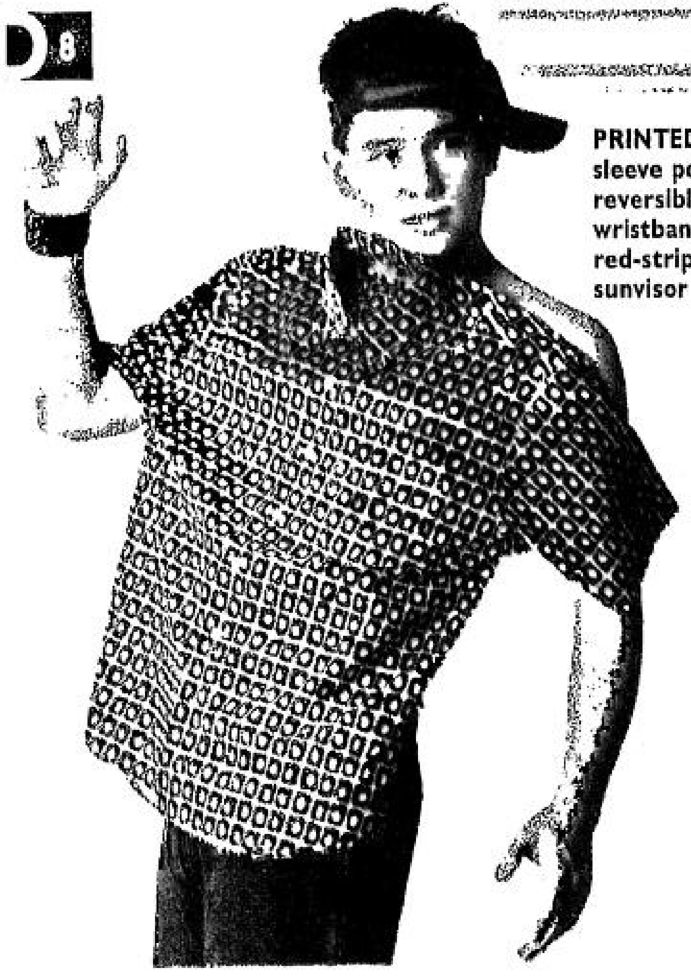
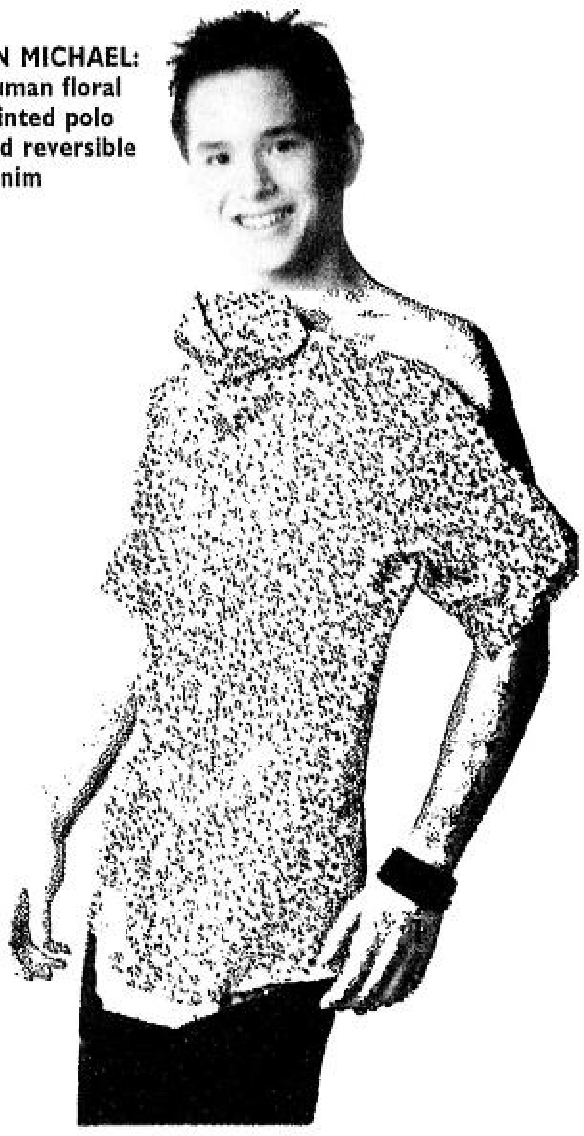


PRINTED short-sleeve polo, reversible denim; wristband and red-striped sunvisor

ON CASEY: Human quarter-sleeve blouse with stitches detail and sandblast denim

ROUND-NECK stretch tee with front and back over print and denim capri; sunvisor and wristband



ON MICHAEL: Human floral printed polo and reversible denim

Clothes to personalize style

HUMAN, a well-known name in alternative clothing, celebrates individuality with its collection of tops and pants.

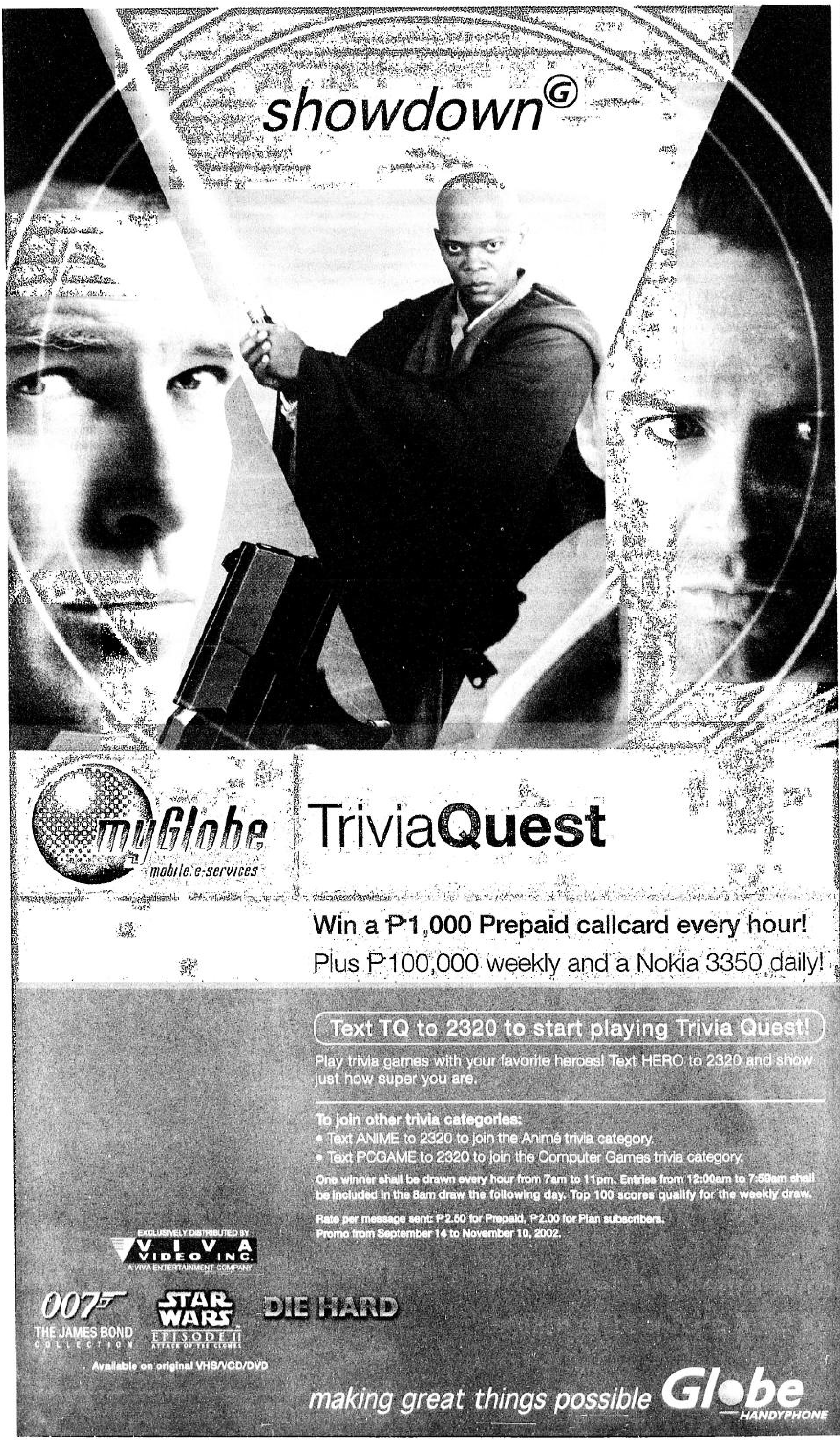
At Human, clothes are versatile, eclectic and multifaceted. Each piece can be worn so it is not quite what it originally appeared to be. A pair of socks, for instance, does not necessarily have to be worn on the feet. By cutting off the toes and slipping them up the arms, they become instant mittens.

A little yellow dress that seems too short can be worn with a pair of jeans to make it a frilly top. A belt worn across the body like a sash can liven up a simple shirt.

Human is about accessorizing to the hilt. Being fun, funky, young and fearless, fashion-wise. It is about individuality, and what Human and being human are all about.

COMICS print on chest tee and denim washed skirt; three- cord belt and wristband

AQUA-BLUE round-neck tee with reflectorized patch; wristband and reversible super loose denim with studded white belt



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Trend Spotting

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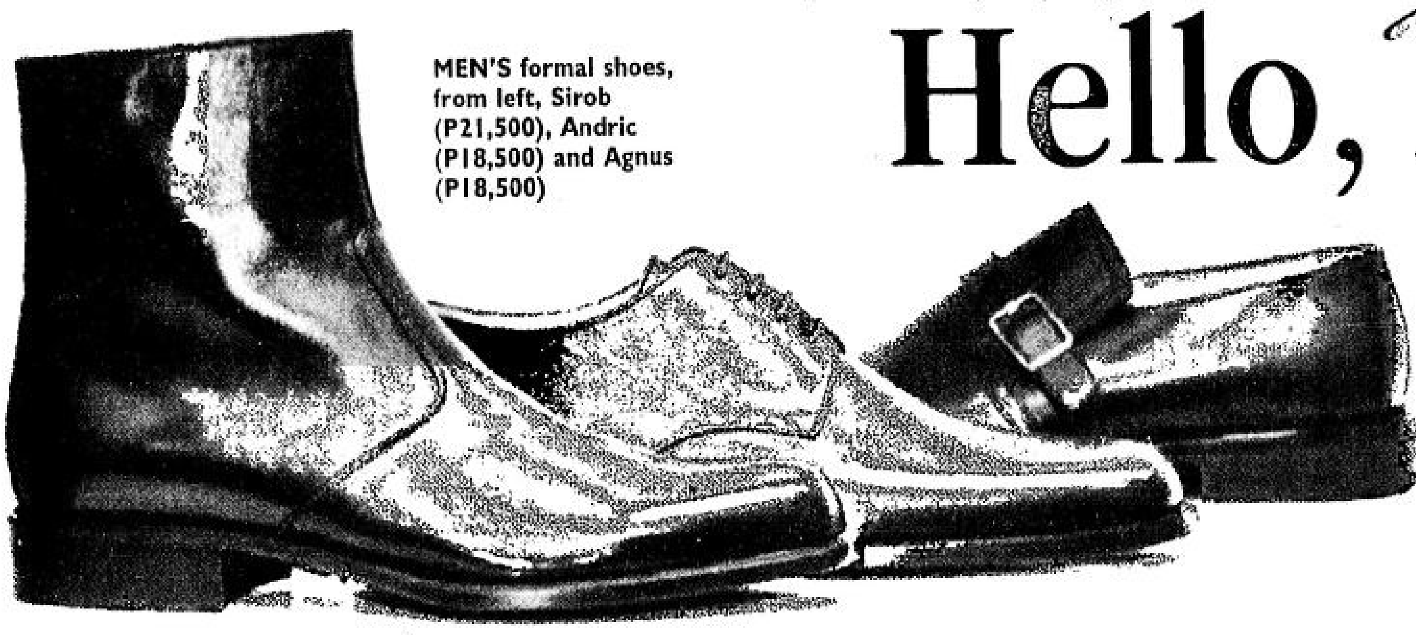
Hello, Bally!



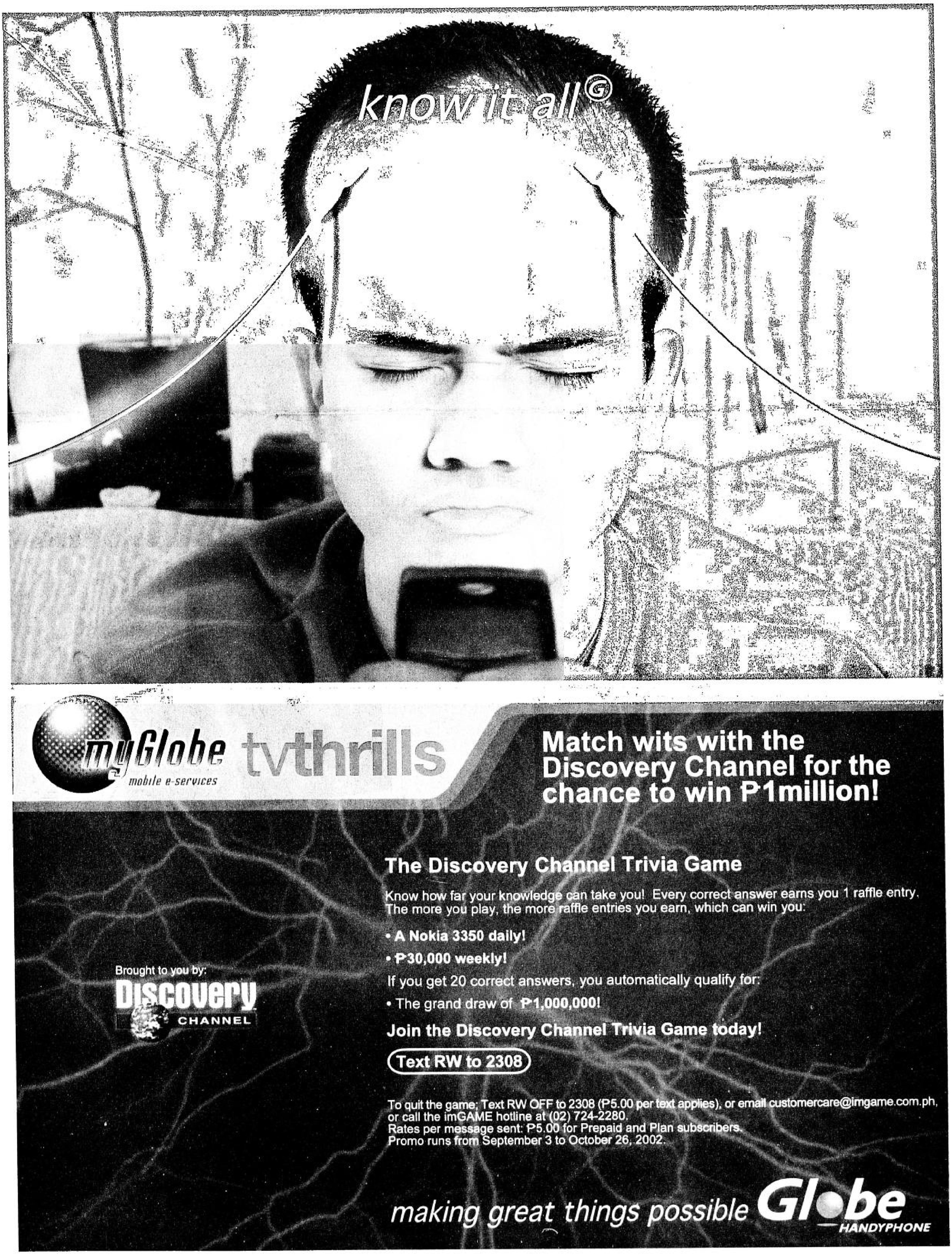
MEN'S formal shoes, from left, Sirob (P21,500), Andric (P18,500) and Agnus (P18,500)

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

WHEN was the last time your dad bought a pair of Bally shoes? Unless he has remained faithful to the Swiss luxury brand's conservative styles, perhaps even he can't remember anymore. That will soon change if Bally's current marketing gambit clicks.

HELLO/ p.E6

ROLF Kambli



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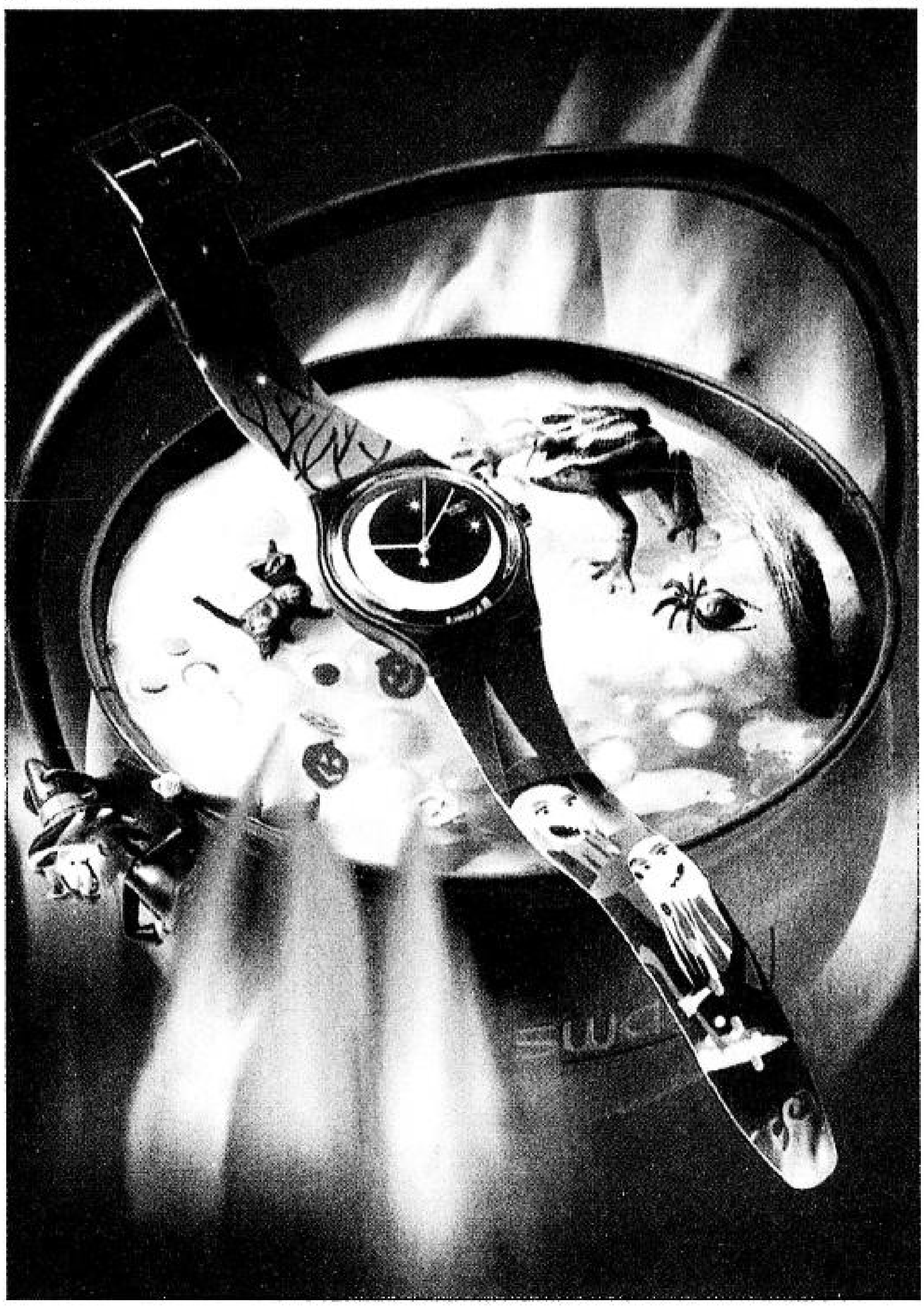
Time to cast a spell



HALLOWEEN 2002 Swatch watch comes with special packaging cauldron that is pure "trick or treat" gadgetry, complete with key chain.

CREEPY crawlers will be no match to Swatch babe Sarah Meier as she welcomes all witches.

WITCH for the night Sarah wears a Ballroom Belle.

SWEET Attitude Charming Swatch will remind you of the witching hour at the Tavern on the Square on Halloween night.

MAGIC spells start with the Classic Light swatch on her wrist and a wand.

THE SPOOKIEST and creepiest night of the year is All Hallow's Eve. This is the night when witches, goblins and ghosts land on earth...to party!

Don't be left alone in the dark without a disguise as the witching hour strikes at midnight this Halloween. Gift Gate and Swatch invite everyone to experience a whole day of chilling fun both for the young and old, through All Hallow's Eve at the newly reopened Tavern on the Square in Greenbelt 3.

Everyone can dress up in their best Halloween costume to party, have fun and get a chance to win lots of prizes! On Oct. 31, 4-6 p.m., celebrate with Gift Gate Greets and Treats. Bring the whole family and catch the excitement of games and rare treats from Gift Gate. For every P1,000 single purchase at any Gift Gate Store until Oct. 31, baby witches and ghosts get free entrance for two to the party. Horror face-painting and loads of fun surprises are in store to help drive the spirits away. What's more, get a free souvenir photo taken by Fuji Film, complete with a Gift Gate Halloween-inspired design, in your best Halloween costume.

And from 8 p.m. until past the stroke of midnight, celebrate with Swatch's "Witch Party." A purchase of two Swatch watches at any Gift Gate, Swatch store or kiosk until Oct. 31 entitles customers to free entrance for two to the "Witch Party." Listen to the music of the Rage band and surprise guests. Enjoy the ghoulish food until the witching hour. And to really feel the spirit of Halloween, come in your best witch outfit and get a chance to win lots of prizes!

So, whether enjoying the treats with the kids with Gift Gate Greets and Treats or partying with the Rage band in Swatch's "Witch Party," come in your best Halloween costume and get a chance to win one of the special prizes—the Swatch Halloween Special "Witch Party," where two witches stirring their brew are set against a purple night sky, bare black branches and twinkling stars all lit up by Swatch's loomie function.

Gift Gates Greets and Treats from 4 to 6 p.m. and Swatch's "Witch Party" from 8 p.m.-12 mn, only at the Tavern on the Square in Greenbelt 3—be there when goblins, ghosts and witches land on earth this Halloween.

Swatch is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate Inc., and is available at all Swatch stores and kiosks and Gift Gate stores nationwide.

Fashion by the numbers

By Harriet Ann Dy
Contributor

A former Manila-based fashion writer finds herself on the other side of the fashion fence, charting consumer behavior

TORONTO, Canada—On a recent Saturday evening, I found myself in front of the computer, putting online holds on several books at the local library.

Some of my selections included "Luxury Fever: Money and Happiness in an Era of Excess" by Robert Frank, "Confessions of a Window Dresser" by Simon Doonan and "The End of Fashion: The Mass Marketing of the Clothing Business" by Wall Street Journal fashion journalist Teri Agins.

Several months into my job as a merchandise allocation analyst for a Canadian fashion chain, I find that I am developing an increasingly healthy appetite for learning more about the fashion food chain. I want to have a more in-depth understanding of the science of consumerism.

Nothing strange about it, except that the company I work for caters to a Britney Spears-worshipping mass market. It is a good but very different vantage point to be in; obviously not the place to spot future hot trends. In a way, keeping myself updated through gloss-oriented publications like the ones I'm borrowing is a way of rebelling against the prospect of fading into the massive suburban blur of this megapolis.

I attribute this interest partly to nostalgia in my past life as a fashion editor, when I wrote about the Baguette not as a French pain, leg of mutton not as food, and Paris Hilton not as hotel but as the spoiled heiress-turned-social column staple. Back then, I was on the receiving end of the food chain—waiting for new collections, writing about them in print and shopping for the goods, not necessarily in that order.

Poring days

I rarely do that now—writing, I mean. These days, instead of going to photo shoots, I find myself poring over sample racks studying what styles sell and what don't. Would fashion-forward French-Canadian women in Montreal embrace Brazilian jeans? Will denim-and-corduroy jeans appeal to predominantly Asian shoppers in Vancouver? Both are just some of the questions I ponder on a daily basis. I still live in front of the computer, but instead of meeting editorial deadlines, I meet with the ladies' buyer to discuss distribution strategies, trying to match inventory with consumer demand as accurately as possible.

Where I used to be at the front row perusing latest collections, I now find myself behind the scenes, analyzing weekly reports and reviewing sales based on style, color and sizes. I work with numbers now, interpreting percentages, hoping to translate them to future sales. I never thought I'd work with a calculator when I was scribbling away observations during press lunches before.

Here in Toronto, I have attended only one fashion show. This was a year ago, when I was doing a story on a young fashion designer, Joeffer Caoc, for my magazine-writing class at Ryerson University. A darling of the Canadian fashion media, Caoc—who reminds me of Jojie Lloren, but with Lisa Loeb glasses—is the talented hand behind the spare and fluid Misura line of clothing sold at posh stores like Holt Renfrew (Canada's equivalent of Rustan's). He also happens to be of Filipino descent.

Quality control

My learning experience went a step further on a slow period at work recently when I began to help out with quality control. More than the actual design, I get a close-up view of details like the fabric weight and labels, and such intricacies as getting the perfect matte shade for shanks and buttons. It's all about making sure your manufacturer understands how dusty you want your pink to be. And I actually enjoy the process.

Sure, I miss reporting on whether low-rise jeans are still hot (watch out for high-waisted jeans in spring), and I miss the thrill of anticipation and drama of actual shows. But I deeply appreciate the fact that I have the opportunity to jump over to the other side of the fashion fence. Hemlines, I've long realized, are just the tip of the iceberg as far as the fashion business is concerned. Case in point: Isaac Mizrahi, who, after being crowned the wunderkind designer of the '90s by the fashion press, declared bankruptcy despite years and years of extensive fashion coverage.

Fashion retail is really grunt work masked by the sheen of power PRs, glitzy cocktail parties and editorial mention in Vogue. At the end of the day, having the right fit or the right "it" trend—like Juicy Couture-inspired velour tracksuits popularized by Madonna—can make the difference in the bottom line. It's about connecting what real women, young and old, want to wear in real life and spend their hard-earned money on. And in this highly competitive business, being in the black is never out of style.

Now, if only I can find more time for writing.

E-mail the author at chinachix @hotmail.com

Groovy show launches promo for cardholders

A SPECTACLE of dance, music, lights, colorful '70s regalia and sassy humor recently marked the launching of Citibank's PayLite Beetlemania promo.

Held at the activity center of the Shangri-La Edsa Mall, the afternoon event was attended by Citibank partners, special guests and members of the media.

The affair was hosted by Bimbo Cerrudo and Djorge Javier, who mimicked "Justin Towers" and "Dr. DeVille," the characters in the Austin Powers movie. Together with the Whiplash dancers, the hosts rendered several hit songs that had the audience literally moving to the groove.

The PayLite Beetlemania promo is offered exclusively to Citibank cardholders who purchase a minimum of P3,000 worth of items charged to PayLite Installment Plan. Cardholders also get the chance to win any of four New Volkswagen Beetle 1.6 A/T, in four raffle draws slated toward the end of the promo.

In her speech at the unveiling of the New Beetle, Nina Aguas, Citibank country business manager, said, "We always seek out ways of rewarding our loyal cardholders who have consistently relied on our PayLite Installment Plan to attain valuable items in lighter and easier monthly installment terms. It's also doubly exciting for all of us since we're doing it all in the spirit of our 100th year anniversary celebration in the Philippines."

With its 1.6 four-cylinder in line aluminum engine block, four-speed automatic transmission, antilock braking system, dual front and front-side impact air bags, and a host of other advanced safety features, the New Beetle sports a modern carapace design that promises to redefine the Filipinos' love affair with the famous Love Bug.

Winners will be drawn in four raffle draws scheduled Nov. 22 and Dec. 13, and Jan. 19 and March 23, 2003.

JANET and Judy So with Cecille Carrillo

Citibank
PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN

AUSTIN hosts the PayLite Beetlemania launch with aplomb

ALEX Crisologo, Clarence and Florence Yao

JUDITH Dayrit, Benjie Oliva, Cecille Fonacier, Gina Ordoñez, Poch Villareal and Nina Aguas

Feel safe commuting, txt msge

SONERA zed, the world's leading mobile portal, launched recently a new service to help commuters feel safer.

Together with mobile service provider Smart, Sonera zed launched Safe-Taxi, a service that monitors people who board a taxi, bus or even someone's car.

A Sonera zed locator-based service (LBS), Safe-Taxi, keeps track of a commuter from the moment he/she boards a taxi (or any vehicle for that matter) until the passenger reaches his/her destination. As soon as the commuter gets in a cab, he/she can register into the system by keying in the words "TX ON," then the taxi name and plate number. As soon as the passenger reaches his/her destination, Safe-Taxi can be deactivated by keying the words "TX OFF."

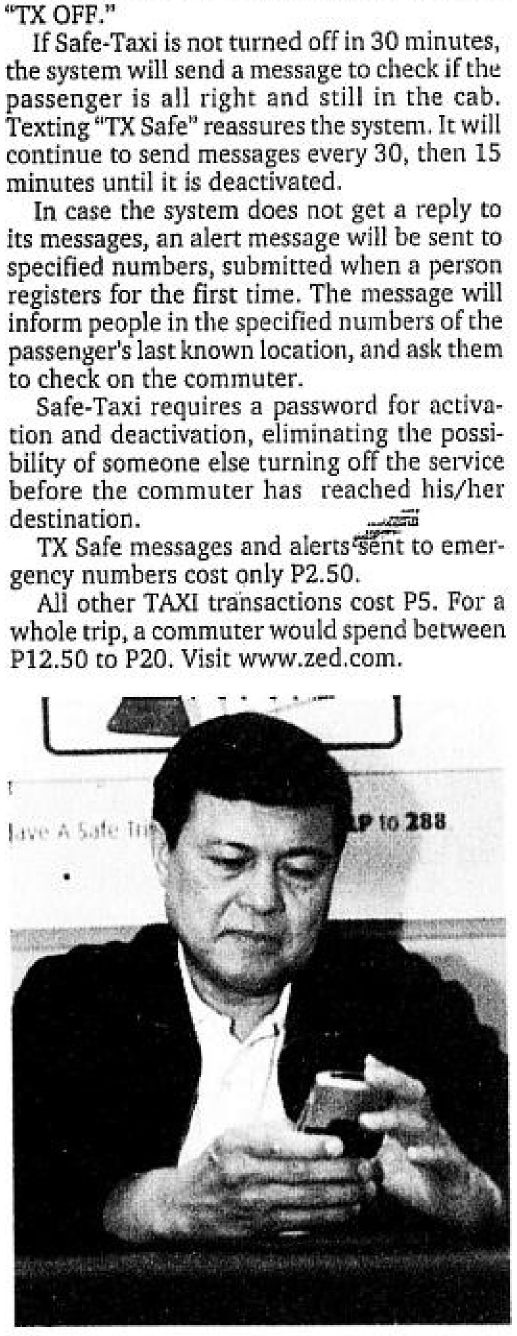
If Safe-Taxi is not turned off in 30 minutes, the system will send a message to check if the passenger is all right and still in the cab. Texting "TX Safe" reassures the system. It will continue to send messages every 30, then 15 minutes until it is deactivated.

In case the system does not get a reply to its messages, an alert message will be sent to specified numbers, submitted when a person registers for the first time. The message will inform people in the specified numbers of the passenger's last known location, and ask them to check on the commuter.

Safe-Taxi requires a password for activation and deactivation, eliminating the possibility of someone else turning off the service before the commuter has reached his/her destination.

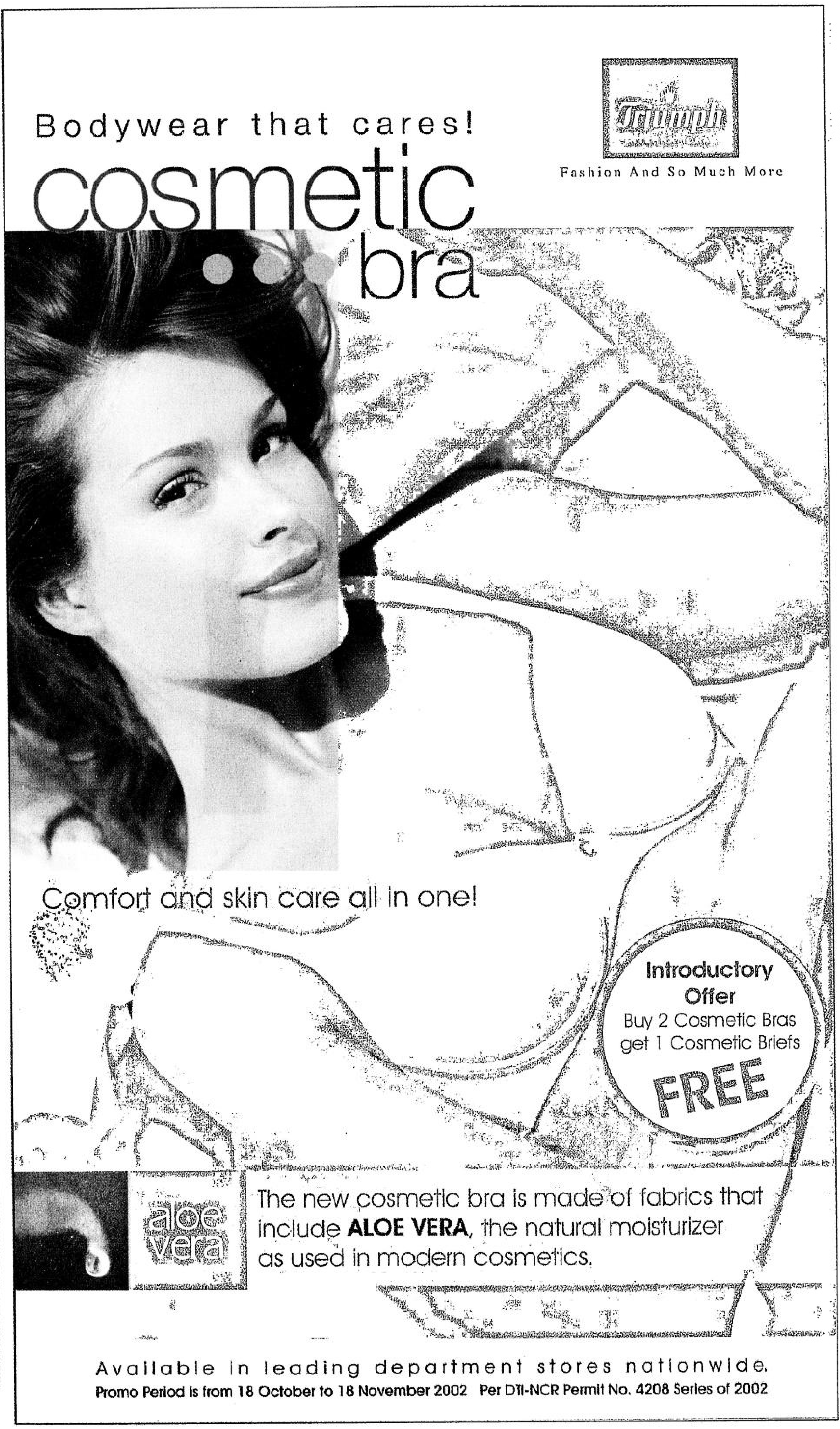
TX Safe messages and alerts sent to emergency numbers cost only P2.50.

All other TAXI transactions cost P5. For a whole trip, a commuter would spend between P12.50 to P20. Visit www.zed.com.



SEN. Manny Villar

EDGARDO Bautista, Smart business and product development group head



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FASHION ADVICE

Big foot, closet catharsis and the basic black dress

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Personal style is being able to say no. No one who we think of as a woman of great personal style was a fashion victim. They are women who are very aware of their bodies, their features and what works.—**Michael Kors**

I'D love to wear sandals but I get really conscious of my big (read: wide, long and a tad fat) feet. I normally stick to safe, unadventurous closed shoes but I'd like to be more fashion-forward in my choice of footwear. What style of sandals should I wear to make my feet appear smaller?

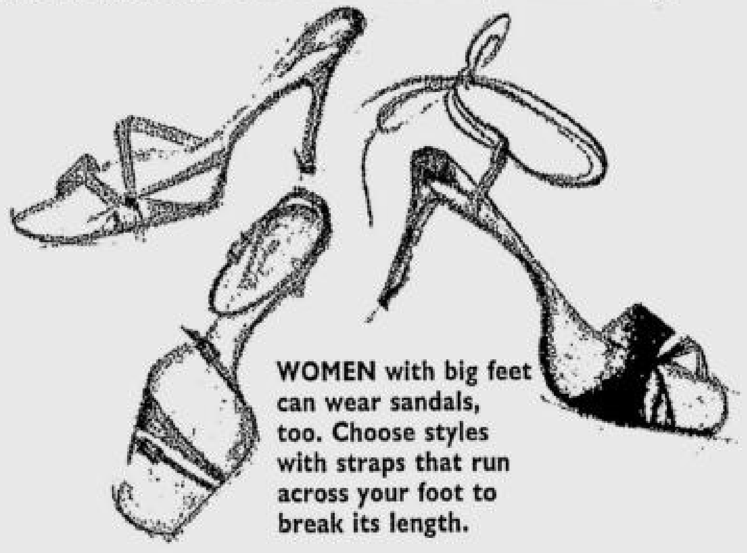
According to Emi Jorge of Solea (tel. 633-8004), a company that designs and makes shoes, you don't have to limit yourself to closed shoes just because you have "big feet." You can still wear sandals and open-toed shoes. She suggests that you wear styles that have lines or straps running across the foot (diagonally, horizontally and/or even vertically) to break the length of your foot (check out Emi's illustrations for sandal options). The size of the strap must always be proportional to the size of your foot. For sizes nine and up, straps must be a little wider. Avoid sandals with extra thin and minimal straps, as your feet might look even bigger.

Emi also says the higher the heel, the shorter the shoe/sandal will look. Thus, creating the illusion of smaller, more feminine-looking feet and elongated legs. Of course, you need not wear mile-high heels all the time. Just try to avoid flats (except when you're in the beach or you're dressed down) when you want to look particularly special and feel extra-confident.

Take into consideration the heel shape as this can also affect your feet's appearance. Stay away from tiny, dainty or pencil-like heels that might make your feet look bulky. Wear average-sized heels. Stilettos, which are in fashion, might not suit you, though quite a number of women with huge feet still wear this style. The alternative is to don thicker but not necessarily chunkier heels. And just as you use color to reduce your body size, you can wear sandals and shoes in black and other dark hues to minimize the size of your feet. "Everyone and everything looks smaller or slimmer in black," Emi adds.

If you're still not very comfortable about wearing sandals and decide to dress in closed shoes, keep in mind that closed shoes don't have to be basic or boring. Emi recommends shoes with toe points that are slimmer and shoes with elongated insteps like those of Jimmy Choo and Manolo Blahnik. ***(See illustrations.)***

"These might make your feet look longer but it's perfectly alright because they'll look very sexy, too," she says. Lastly, Emi suggests that you avoid wearing shoes with bulky square toes as these will only exaggerate your big size.



WOMEN with big feet can wear sandals, too. Choose styles with straps that run across your foot to break its length.

How do I know when it's time to get rid of certain clothes and accessories? The one-year rule doesn't seem wise because fashion comes back.

The one-year rule is quite impractical and was probably invented by clothing manufacturers who wanted to increase revenue. Well-made classics in season-less fabric can be used year after year and need not be trashed a year after its purchase. Vintage dressing is also very fashionable, so keeping old pieces and accessories can be advantageous. Plus, it's true that fashion is a vicious cycle. Outfits and accessories from the 1980s that seemed tacky and over-the-top in the early 1990s were quite acceptable again about a season or two ago. And 1970s peasant blouses were all the rage last summer.

But as much as we'd like to keep every single item in our closet, we simply can't. Some pieces, no matter how well loved, just have to be junked. If you can't be objective about this, you can invite a brutally honest friend whose style you admire to help you out.

Start off by applying the one-year rule for certain items that you never wear. If you've never worn it, you probably never will, so there's no point in keeping it. Next, weed out what no longer fits. An item that's two sizes too small has no place in your closet. Then, check out all the pieces for damage. If an item is repairable, like a pair of pumps that need to be resoled, a leather bag that needs polishing or a jacket that needs new buttons, it is worth keeping. If the item is beyond salvation, then junk it by all means.

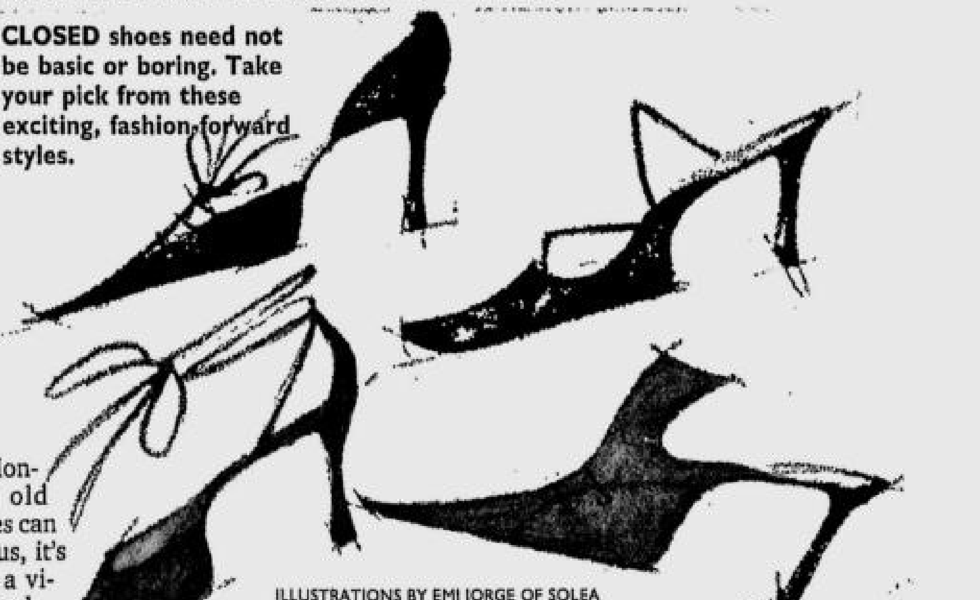
After purging your closet of items you don't need, go through all the things you have left and try to create new combinations. By going through your wardrobe, you'll discover whole new outfits and extraordinary pieces without spending a cent.

As for your castoffs, why not host a tea party with special friends who might like some of your items? Or have a garage sale to earn some extra bucks. Better yet, help others by donating the items to a charitable institution of your choice.

Just once I would like to buy a nice evening dress that I can wear again and again. Where do I start looking? I have trips planned to Hong Kong and Bangkok, but please give local options. What can give it a new look every time I wear it?

The basic black dress is the most versatile evening dress that you can purchase. Inspired by the uniforms of maids and shop girls, Coco Chanel introduced the black dress in the 1920s; Audrey Hepburn immortalized it in the 1961 movie "Breakfast at Tiffany's." It is elegant in its simplicity and need not cost a fortune to look expensive. It's also very flattering as black slims the body, frames the face and disguises unsatisfactory tailoring.

It is easy to dress up or down your basic black dress so that it looks new each time you wear it. For starters, you can vary your makeup and hairstyle. Then, you can use countless accessories to create different looks. You may opt to wear a pair of red mules with a matching red shawl. Or you can wear a cape, Sabrina-heeled shoes and pearls. It really all depends on your style, mood and the occasion.



CLOSED shoes need not be basic or boring. Take your pick from these exciting, fashion-forward styles.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY EMI JORGE OF SOLEA

You should choose the cut of your dress depending on your body type and personal style. Generally, A-line silhouettes fit most body types, especially bottom-heavy figures. Sheaths, which are cut close to the body, are best suited for slim, well-toned women while empire cuts flatter thick-waisted women. Fabric choice is also crucial when choosing your dress. Structured fabrics like Thai silk are better for bigger, rounder figures, while soft fabrics like silk jersey and chiffon suit slim to slightly voluptuous figures.

You can purchase your black evening dress in numerous shops in Manila. Wink by Rhett Eala is very popular for its eveningwear and it always has black dresses on stock. Stores like Rustan's or Mango will surely have black dresses in different styles. If price is not a concern, check out Costume National at Homme for chic, ultramodern dresses. You can also try DKNY, Armani Exchange and Baghera.

Purchase the best black dress you can find, as it is a wardrobe staple that you can keep through the years and wear many times over. ***(Source: Chic Simple Women's Wardrobe)***

E-mail the author at apsadvice @hotmail.com

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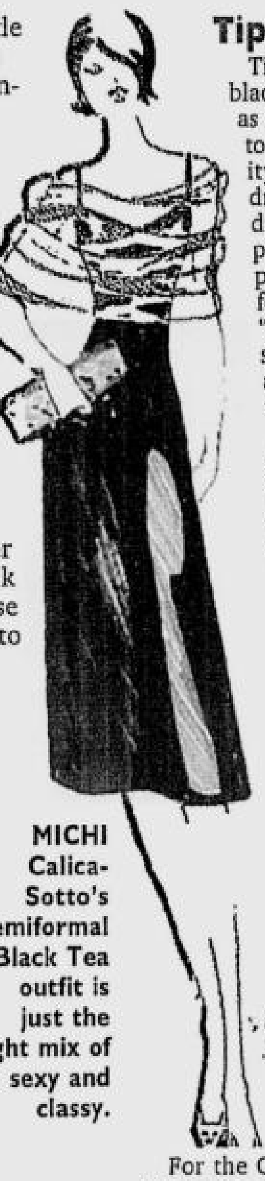
6 designers accessorize the little black dress

TO LAUNCH its new fragrance, Little Black Dress, Avon invited six of the fashion industry's top female designers to come up with ways of accessorizing the little black dress for different occasions, taking it from casual days to fancy soirees.

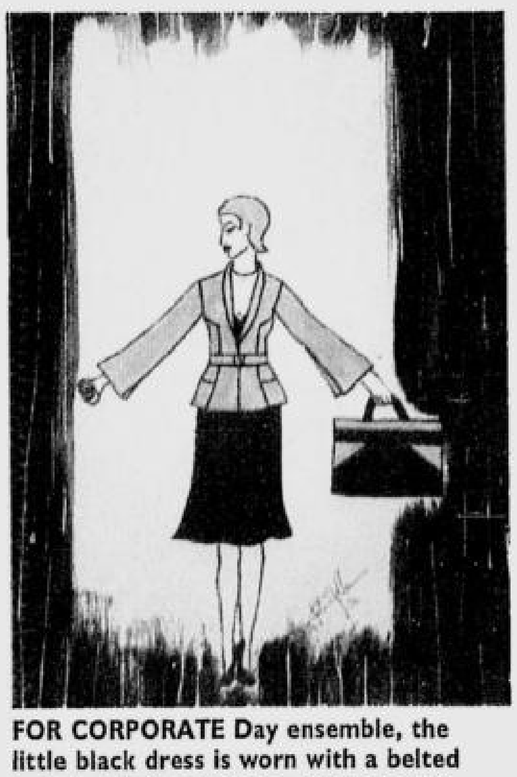
The little black dress spells versatility, and Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Rina . Go, Katrina Goulbourn, Tippi Ocampo, Michi Calica-Sotto and Mia Urquico came up with exciting ways to dress up this fashion classic, adding anything from quintessential pieces to one-of-a-kind accents, from comfy sandals to sexy stilettos.

Inspired by the timeless character of Avon's fragrance Little Black Dress, each design created by these women has a classy, wearable feel to them, regardless of the occasion.

AVON's new fragrance, Little Black Dress



MICHI Calica-Sotto's semiformal Black Tea outfit is just the right mix of sexy and classy.



FOR CORPORATE Day ensemble, the little black dress is worn with a belted jacket, black maryjanes, star pendant necklace, and shown with a cell phone and briefcase.

Tippi Ocampo

Tippi Ocampo reveals that the little black dress is essential to every woman as she likens it to "a canvas on which to express your own unique personality." She describes the little black dress as a versatile piece that can be dressed up or down—making it appropriate for any occasion. She explains that her choice of accessories for her creations were very personal. "Since the little black dress is a classic piece," Tippi says, "I chose to go a different route and dress it up with more unusual pieces."

The woman going about her daily activities—whether she's going to the market, sitting in a café, going out of town or attending a formal event—inspired Tippi's designs.

For Morning Madness, the little black dress is paired with a faded jacket. The rice-sack tote, black rubber slippers and man's watch make the outfit casual yet hip.

Katrina Goulbourn

Young designer Katrina Goulbourn says the little black dress is something "you can dress up or own for whatever whim you may have." To accessorize the little black dress, Katrina's first thoughts were on style and individuality, "defining one's personality with a basic item and finding the perfect mix of bags, earrings, neckpiece, jacket and shoes to go with it." Katrina wanted her designs to remain elegant, but with a modern edge, something comfortable and chic at the same time.

For the Corporate Day ensemble, the little black dress is worn with a belted jacket, black maryjanes, star pendant necklace, and shown with a cell phone and briefcase. Katrina explains, "I felt the jacket and sleek briefcase were the best way to come across looking professional and stylish."

Patrice Ramos-Diaz

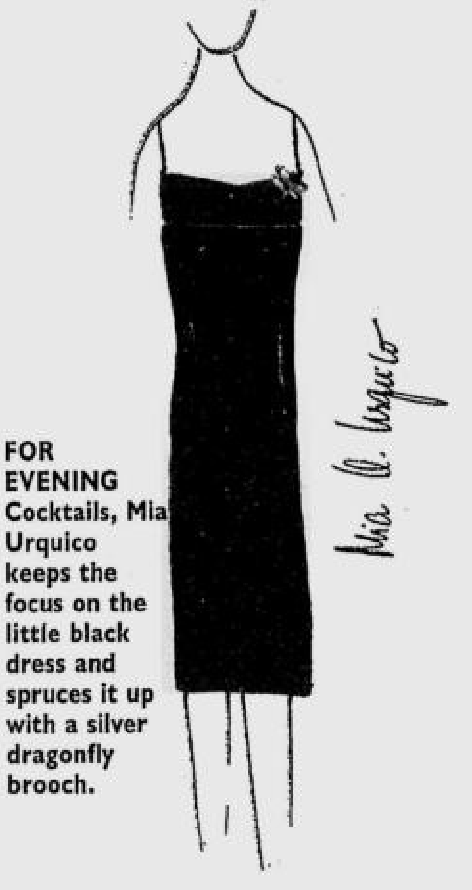
For Patrice Ramos-Diaz, a little black dress needs no introduction; it is just that—a little black dress—"something every woman must have." The first thought that came to her mind when she was asked to come up with her take on the little black dress was, "Fun, fun, fun! I immediately started making studies. I initially thought of personalities or characters to come up with the different looks."

Patrice's Out on a Date ensemble gives the classic little black dress a youthful, edgier look with a hip sash, a soft clutch bag and pointed wedge mules. The black metallic neckpiece makes a modern statement.

Rina Go

Rina Go couldn't have said it any better when she defined the little black dress as "simple and classic and can be carried only by one who doesn't need too much attention to her outfit because she is the main focus—this means confidence and strength from within."

The Evening Corporate attire is perfect for business beyond 5 p.m. The little black dress is dressed up with a red cut jacket with side sleeve slits adding a modern twist. Pointed mules, a rectangular handbag, choker and earrings, all in red, add color to the outfit.



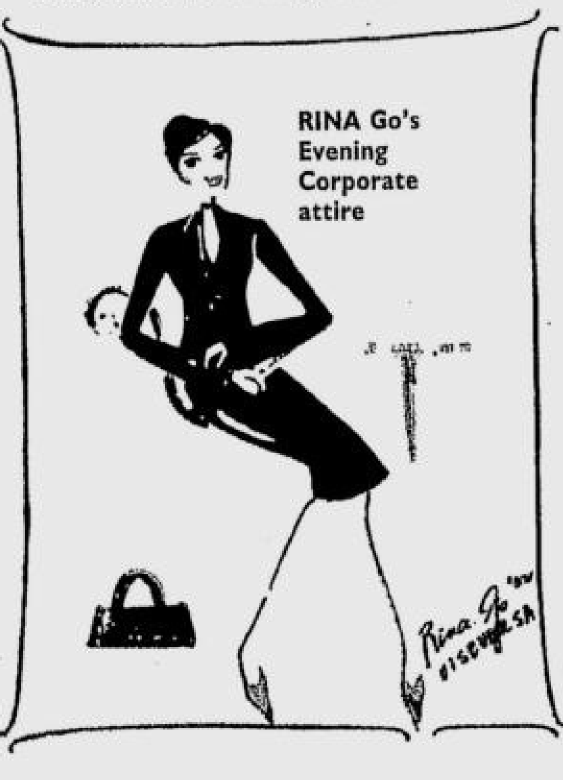
FOR EVENING Cocktails, Mia Urquico keeps the focus on the little black dress and spruces it up with a silver dragonfly brooch.

Mia Urquico

When Mia Urquico was asked to accessorize the little black dress, she didn't want to veer away from the timeless and classy look it already had. She says, "I thought of things that would enhance the look of the little black dress rather than overpower it."

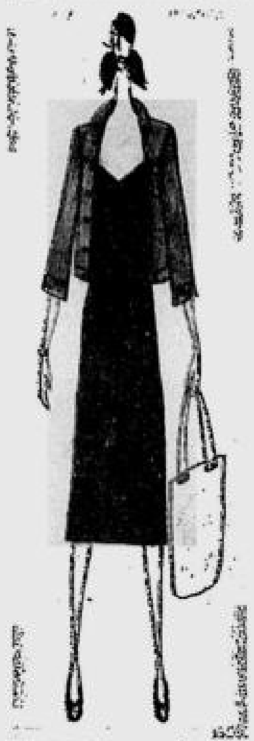
Mia's designs were inspired by fashion icons like Audrey Hepburn and Jackie O, not only because of their looks, but also because of their personal fashion style and strength of character. Mia says, "I designed the little black dress in such a way that it would bring out the best in any woman wearing it."

For Evening Cocktails, Mia keeps the focus on the little black dress and spruces it up with a silver dragonfly brooch.

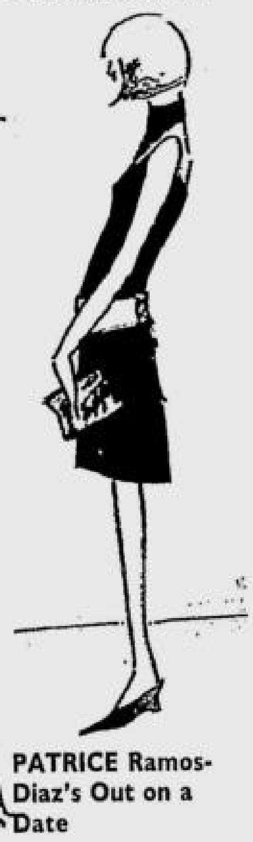


RINA Go's Evening Corporate attire

MICHI Calica-Sotto, Mia Urquico, Katrina Goulbourn and Rina Go



TIPPI Ocampo's Morning Madness



PATRICE Ramos-Diaz's Out on a Date

Michi Calica-Sotto

The timeless little black dress is always a worthy purchase for Michi Calica-Sotto. When asked to accessorize the little black dress, she thought, "I do this all the time. Accessorizing the little black dress is like making a salad. You have your lettuce as your basic ingredient, and you can choose how to dress it depending on what kind of salad you would like to have for the day."

Michi reveals that her own life inspired most of her designs. As a young and active woman with a family and a career to balance, she manages to remain "a fun-loving wife to her husband and, most importantly, doesn't lose herself to all this."

The semiformal Black Tea outfit is just the right mix of sexy and classy. The little black dress is worn with a fuchsia silk, stretch tulle tube-wrap, sexy high-heeled shoes and a beaded clutch—a sassy look that spells attitude.

So, whether you're shopping or going to a midday brunch or power lunch, there's no reason not to wear that little black dress. Wear it on your first group date, and you may find yourself wearing it again on your next intimate dinner. There's no question about the versatility of the little black dress. What makes it special is that it doesn't draw away from your personality.

In the same way, Avon's Little Black Dress makes a subtle statement—a classic, powerful yet feminine fragrance that never forgets the strength and beauty of a woman. This new scent is the perfect finish to dress up a woman in her little black dress—deepening her air of mystery.

The construction of Little Black Dress follows the feminine and sexy line of the dress for which it was named. Hemline, or base notes—the foundation of this fragrance, the signature scent of the Milkwood Accord, softened with a hint of Cashmere Musk. Japanese Plum, Sandalwood and Tonka Bean round out the base with a warm, feminine touch. Waistline, or mid notes—the Pink Peony, Indonesian Jasmine, Ylang Ylang and Tahitian Gardenia middle notes—add volume and sophistication.

Neckline, or top notes, the African Ginger top note with a blend of Honeysuckle, Cyclamen and Apricot Blossom, add lift and sparkle to the fragrance.

Avon's Little Black Dress is available from Avon Ladies nationwide this month, and at Avon Boutiques in SM Megamall, SM Southmall, Glorietta and Ali Mall.

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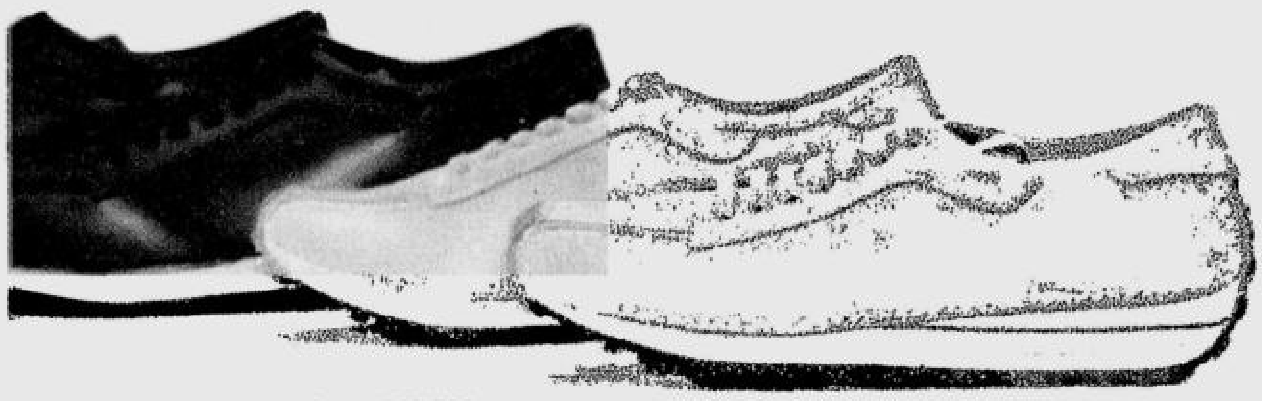
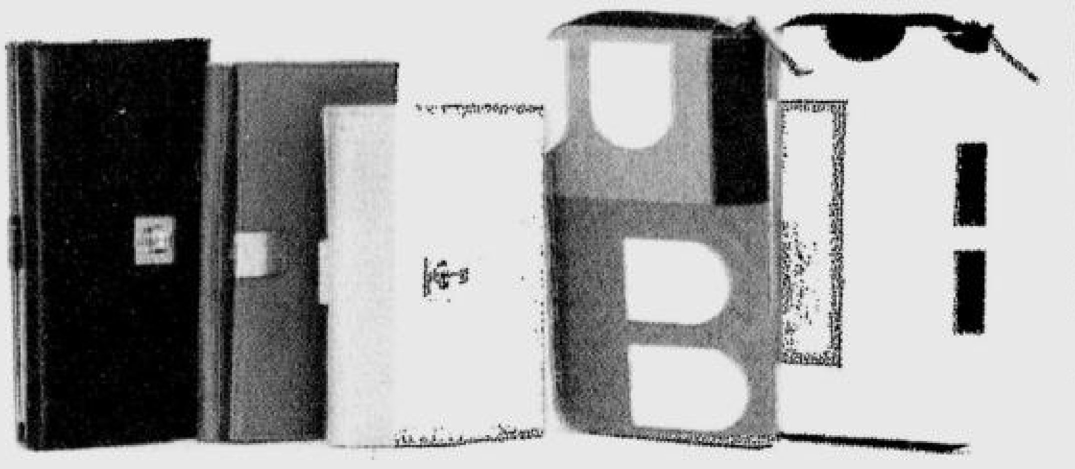


UNISEX cheetah leisure shoes, P15,500

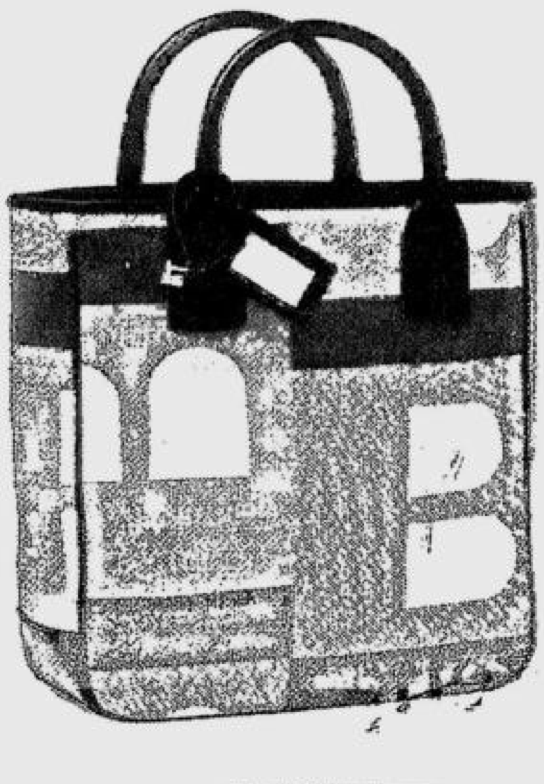


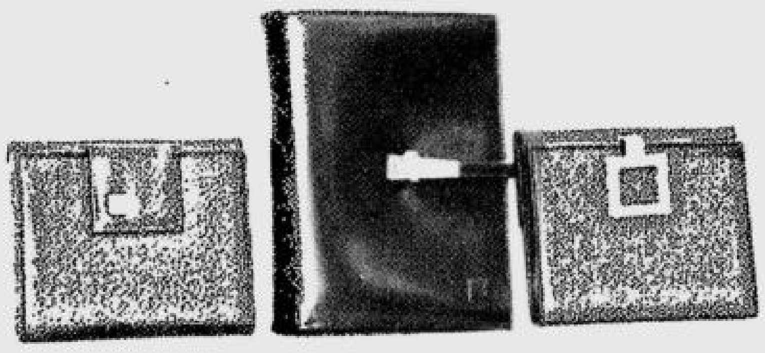
VARIOUS ladies' clutch bags

Hello, Bally!

The luxury leather goods house has said goodbye to conservative looks in a bid to capture a younger market

From page E1





LADIES' wallets

LADIES' bags, from left, Kathrin (P20,500), Konstanze (P25,500), Kora (P16,500) and Kelas (P8,500)

While a number of high-end names have started to redefine their positions to cater to an increasingly graying market, Bally has taken the opposite route by overhauling its image and beefing up its product line to appeal to the young. The result? Trendier leather goods for him and her in shapes, styles and color combinations one would have never associated with a supposedly conservative brand only a few years ago.

"Bally has always been known for quality and elegance," says Rolf Kambli, Bally's chief operating officer for Asia and the Pacific, "but unfortunately not for its freshness."

That was as recent as three years ago. Today, Bally is anything but stale as the brand showed off its 2002 holiday collection composed of shoes, bags and various leather accessories in a recent fashion show at the Power Plant. The occasion also formally launched Bally's partnership with Stores Specialist Inc., the brand's newest exclusive franchise holder in the Philippines.

Men's corporate staples such as conservative black shoes, clutch bags and attaché cases vied for the chichi crowd's attention with new arrivals such as two-toned bowling shoes, oversized gym bags and mailman's bags with striking red-and-beige straps. But it was the women's line—with its mix of eye-catching boots, strappy slip-ons, high heels and printed bags—that easily stood out.

"Bally became known as a men's brand because of the emphasis we used to put on men's line in Asia," says Kambli, who has been based in Hong Kong since 1992 after five-year stint in the company's head office in Zurich. "The ladies' line, however, has always been pretty strong elsewhere in the world."

Earnest beginning

Bally's transformation from drab to trendy began in earnest soon after Texas Pacific Group, an American company, bought Bally from a Swiss company in 1999. At that time, Bally was struggling to attract younger customers before its dwindling base of loyal clientele completely faded from the scene.

In the mercurial world of fashion, however, every minute counts. Bally has had to change its entire creative team pronto in order to redefine itself and capture a substantial chunk of the then elusive young market. Since its collection for the year 2000 was already in place, the change started becoming evident only last year. And what a change it has been!

"It came as a shock to both loyal and potential customers," says Kambli. "Those who have ignored us for years suddenly stopped and took notice. A number of our loyal customers were turned off, but overall the market took these developments positively."

For one, Bally is no longer as bashful as before about brandishing its logo. Much like what Louis Vuitton has been doing with its famous monogram, Bally's Busy B line celebrates its iconic "B" logo by incorporating it with everything—on leather and canvas bags to details as small as locks, badges and toggles.

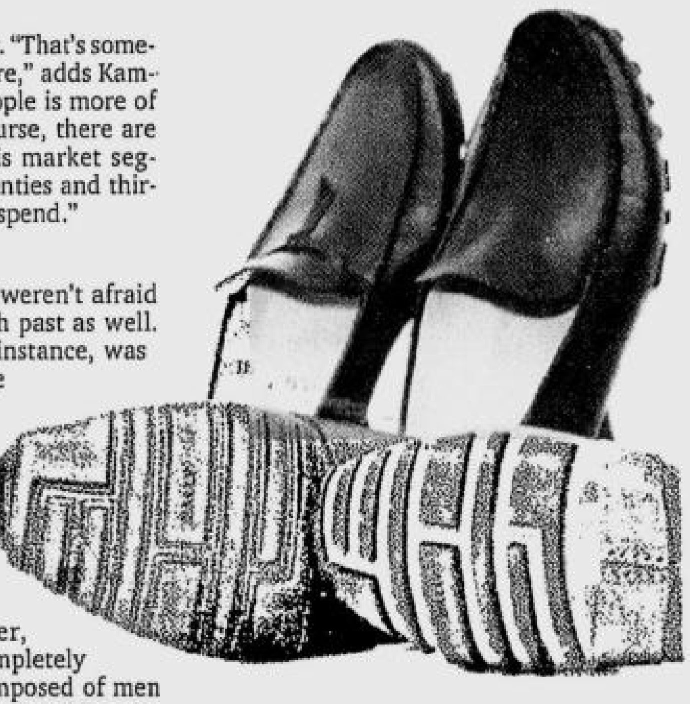
A VARIATION of the Trainspotting bag

The Busy B collection, by the way, both comes in shades of winter gray and a playful mix of white, camel, chocolate brown and red—Bally's new corporate colors—from its summer series. Bally also offers ladies' bags in neutral colors such as brown, beige and trusty black. Styles and sizes are as a varied as the lifestyles and personalities of today's women.

Bally has also begun to address people with alternative careers and lifestyles. Lace-up casual shoes, for instance, are sleek as well as unisex. Smart and casual men's driving shoes made of lightweight and supple leather are perfect for those laidback weekends.

The Trainspotting leather bag, with its attractive red-and-beige shoulder strap, surprisingly looks good with both casual and corporate wear. "That's something we've never carried before," adds Kambli. "Appealing to younger people is more of a challenge than a risk. Of course, there are plenty of opportunities in this market segment since people in their twenties and thirties now have more money to spend."

LADIES bags, from left, Bodia (P28,500) and Bramia (P34,500)



SATO and Soro driving shoes, P15,500

Rich past

Forward-looking designers weren't afraid to draw ideas from Bally's rich past as well. The 40-year-old Havana, for instance, was dusted off and updated as the Tangier, a lightweight pair of moccasins that can be worn either as conventional shoes or slip-ons. "The cut is slimmer, but its body and sole are still made of the finest leather," says Kambli.

At the same time, however, Bally hasn't turned its back completely on its traditional clientele composed of men in conservative fields. Moccasins and lace-up office staples still make up a considerable portion of its current offerings. Despite having updated the look of its conventional dress shoes, it has managed to adhere to high standards of manufacturing that were set since Bally was founded more than 150 years ago.

Not that the company looks down on products manufacrured in other countries, but nowhere can you find anything "Made in China" inside Bally's stores at the Power Plant, Glorietta 4, Shangri-La Mall and all Rustan's branches.

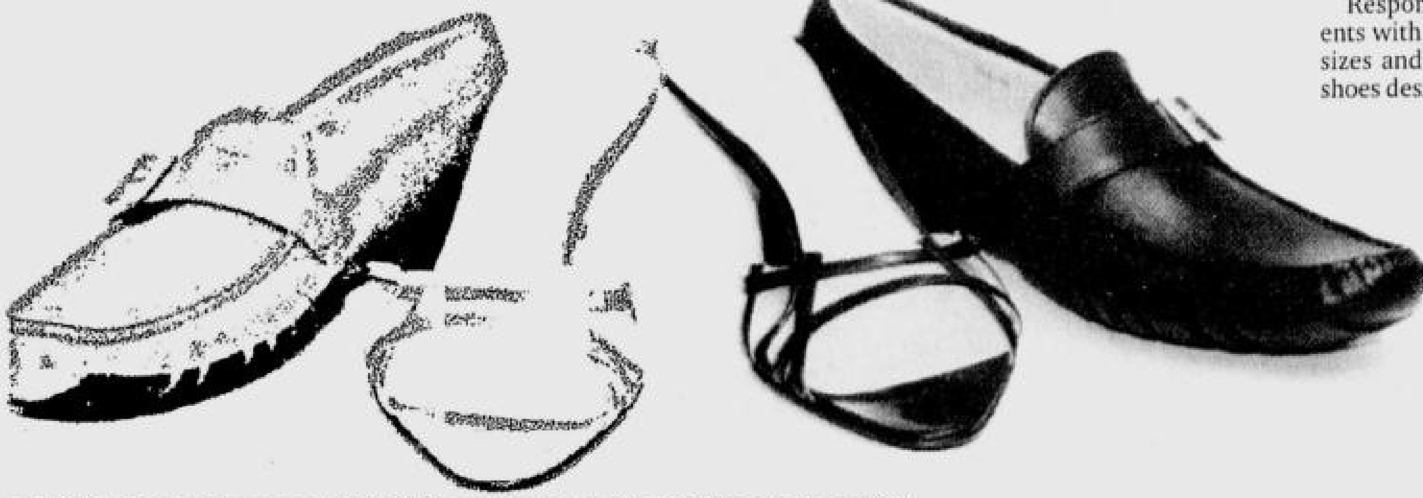
"Every item is made either in Switzerland or in Italy," says Kambli. "Our prices may be higher than some of our competitors, but customers are assured of getting only the best products made by people whose expertise has been honed through the years."

Responsiveness also means providing clients with a wide range of options in terms of sizes and widths. Bally, for instance, carries shoes designed for wider Asian feet. While the brand has unveiled its fall line of shoes in Europe and North America, it has stocked its stores with designs and makes fit for Southeast Asia's humid climate.

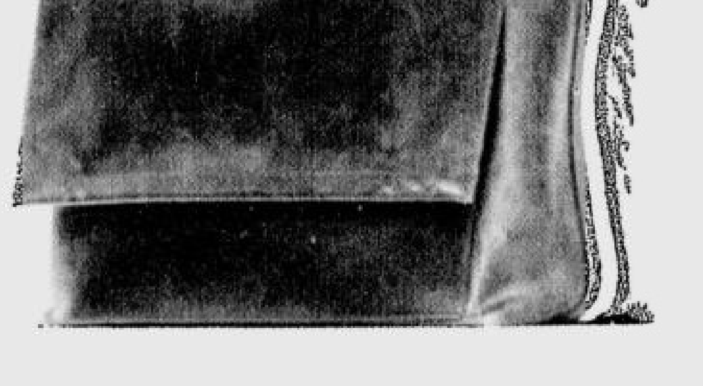
"With the exception of the black men's boots made of warm materials, our collection here is decidedly made of lighter materials yet it's as trendy as the ones we have in Europe and the US," says Kambli.

"To be a Bally customer," he adds, "isn't a question of age, but a question of how you want to look." And with a wider range of styles to choose from, you don't have to wait until you're a dad or a granddad to own your first pair of Bally shoes.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



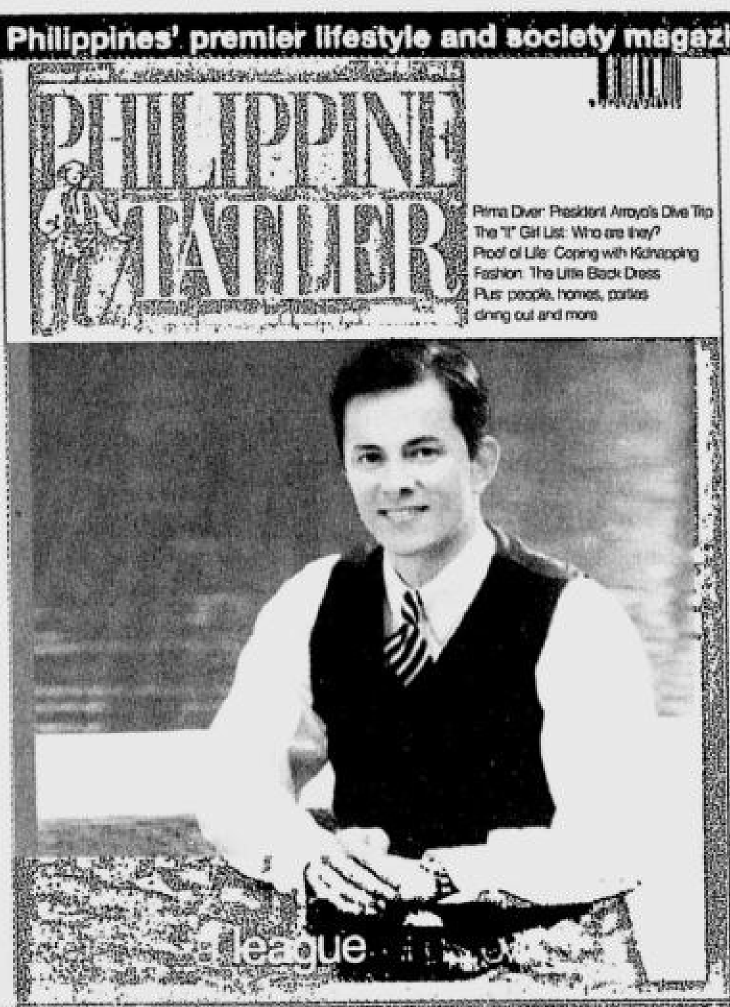
LADIES' Alta driving shoes (P14,500) and Cametta strappy slip-ons (P16,500)



TRAINSPOTTNG men's shoulder bag, P43,500

BOBBI BROWN. Eyeshadow: Ivy; cheeks: Sandstone; lips: Shimmer Gloss stick in Mauve

ON CAROLYN Murphy: Estee Lauder's Mineralites Collection—eyes: Mineralites Crème Patina in Pearl Jade; eyeshadow: Pearl Stone; lipstick: Tiger Eye



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Makeup forecast for autumn

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

RUSTAN'S Department Store and L'Oreal Philippines have been kind enough to furnish me with the fall makeup forecast for 2002. This season covers the months of September to December. Rustan's arranged for me an in-depth discussion with representatives from Bobbi Brown and Estee Lauder-Malaysia. It also gave me an opportunity to experience the colors. You will be glad to know that the selection from the different companies can accommodate every age and skin color.

Estee Lauder. The queen of all makeup calls the Fall 2002 collection "Mineralites."

The palette encompasses rich neutrals and vivid gemstone hues, quartz shine and pearl luster, which create a look that is strong, impulsive and naturally refined—all from the Pure Color Range. Eyes are her focal point, and I received the Mineralites Crème Patina for eyes (P1,000), a glittery gel formula that deposits shimmer alone or above eye makeup. It comes in two shades: Golden Pearl and Pearl Jade—I use the former. Eye shadow colors are Ivory Box (cream), Pearl Stone (gray), Blue Sphere (sky), Mocha Cup (earth brown), at P930 each. Pure Color lipsticks in Tiger Eye (beige gold shimmer), Sunstone, Rubellite and Hot Kiss, P880. Pure color Nail Lacquer in White Pearl, Marcasite, Garnet, and Amethyst, P630. Exclusive at Rustan's Department Store.

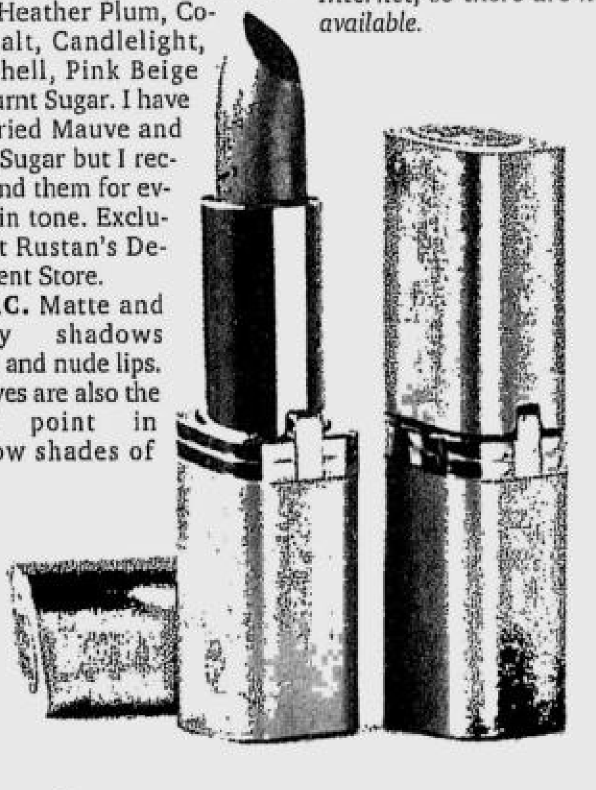
Bobbi Brown. Lips drenched in shimmer, eyes that are smudged just so and cheeks warmed with a whisper of brown. Matte eye shadow shades are smoke, black plum, ivy (on model) and vanilla. Shimmer shades in Champagne and Bronze, P900 each. Her two new shades of blush: Sandstone (on model), and Brown Berry, which is the perfect complement for all skin tones—at P1,200 each. Shimmer Gloss stick is her latest lipstick line. It is sheer, pure shimmer with a glossy finish, for a pretty pearlized glow. Deposits very little color but a lot of shine and plumps up the driest lips. For those who want more coverage, this may be used over lip liner or cream lipstick. It has 10 shades at P880 each: Copper Red, Mauve (on model), Iced Pink, Cherry Cognac, Heather Plum, Cocoa Malt, Candlelight, Sandshell, Pink Beige and Burnt Sugar. I have only tried Mauve and Burnt Sugar but I recommend them for every skin tone. Exclusive at Rustan's Department Store.

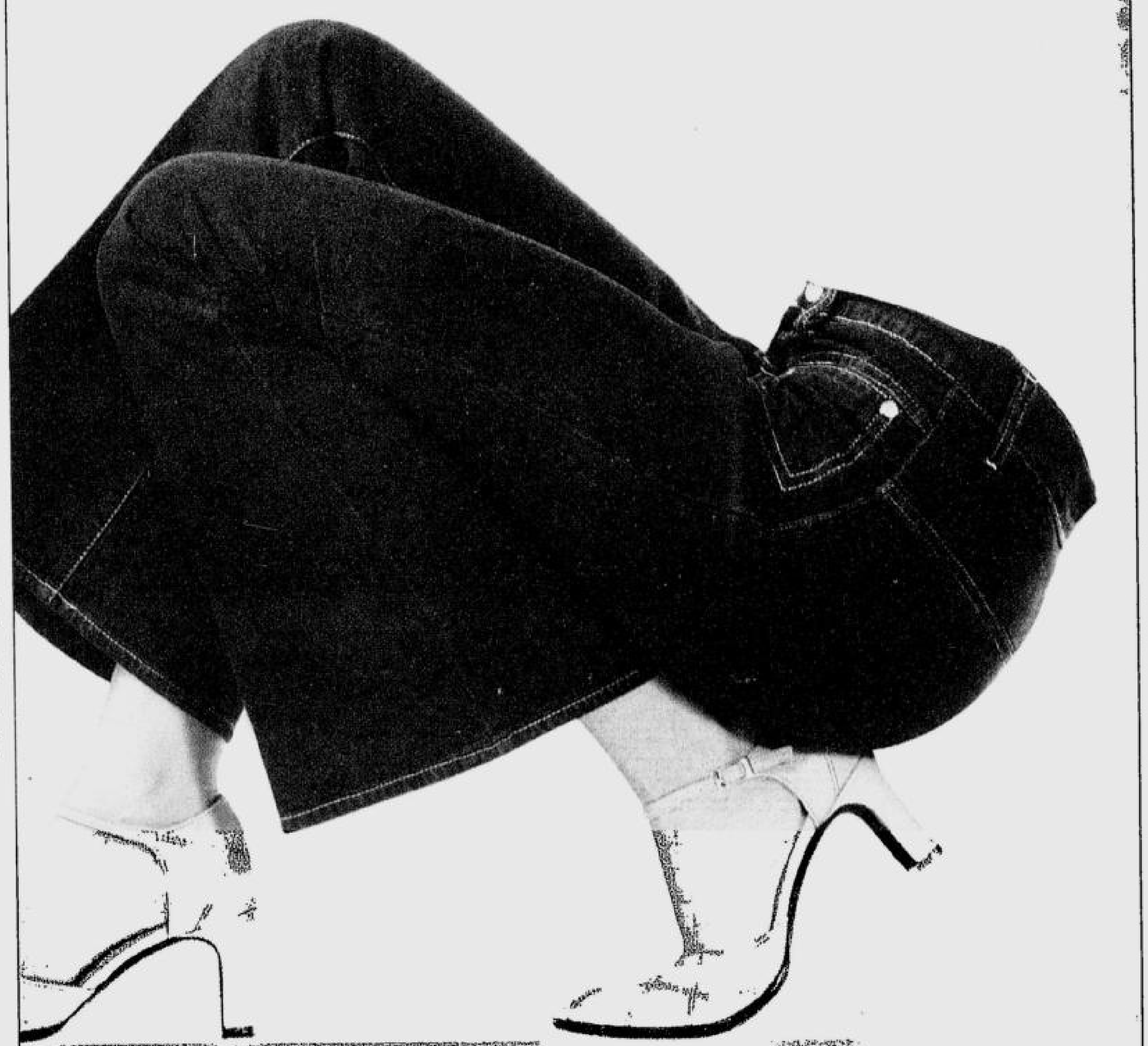
MAC. Matte and Glossy shadows mixed and nude lips. The eyes are also the focal point in shadow shades of Shadowy Lady, Plumage, Charmer, Ochre (matte) and Quarry. The more adventurous types can try out their colored mascara and false eyelashes. Cheeks are bronze or tawny pink, or one may just apply silver dust over cheekbones. Lipstick shades are: Tempting, Amorous, Mystique, X-pose and Hug Me. Look for Mikee at the Glorietta counter for inquiries. Eye shadows and lipsticks are both at P750 each. A single purchase of P3,000 entitles one to a free makeover anytime or day after. Tip: Schedule it on the day you have a party for the latest look and tips right away.

L'Oreal. Feminine pink and rose hues incorporated with "power" shades from camel to navy. Eye shadow quads: Pinstripes in pinks and purples (for cool skin tones) and Tweeds in peaches and browns (for warm skin tones). Eyeliners in Espresso and tuxedo blue. Blush: Mauvelous and Mocha Rose. Lip liners in Nude and Rose Mauve. Lipsticks: Colour Riche in Baby Doll, Classic Wine, Peek a Boo Berry and Straight Laced Rose. Invincible lipsticks in True Rosewood, Shy Rose, Plum Passion, and Obsessive Rose (lipsticks are at P525 each). Nails: Classic Wine, Peek A Boo Betty, sheer beige, sheer ivoire, P315 each.

Lancome. Violet tinted hues for eyes, lips, nails and cheeks. The colors are strong and perfect for women with darker hair, skin and eyes. Very dramatic, exotic and eye-catching. Blush: No Worries (magenta). Eye shadow: Spectra quad colors are lilac, periwinkle, purple and plum. Eyeliner: Prune. Lips: Rouge Attraction line—Prodige (lavender frost), No Alibi (purple cream), No Excuses (violet cream). Juicy tubes gloss: No Reserve (sheer pink), No Taboo (lavender), Cassis (violet) and Rune (dark purple).

Note: Lancome fall 2002 products were researched in the Internet, so there are no prices available.





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VANDA Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Rice joins ornamentals at center stage in Los Baños show

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Linda B. Bolido

ONE of the reasons we go to the Los Baños garden shows, despite the exasperating traffic and the long trip, is to see what new things are featured in the exhibit and the plant market during these events. This year, the exciting features are rice plants for landscape and *palay* décor for indoors.

It's also the first time someone thought of going ethnic in the garden. The beautiful ethnic motif

RICE/ p.F2

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Joanna Valencia-de Jesus,
33, AVP for Finance, interior design student,
mother of two

Joanna de Jesus has the fresh face of a college girl -- plus a successful career and not one but two teenaged daughters! Yet you'd never guess it from her skin: "People can't believe I'm 33!" Thanks to Imedeen, Joanna's not only maintained her young skin -- she's even *improved* it: "I wasn't born with perfect skin. I had sunspots and tiny veins, but they're almost gone; now I don't even need foundation!" Only Imedeen nourishes skin from deep within – for a smooth, firm, defiantly youthful complexion *without* time consuming rituals. So when her daughters' friends or her own classmates are amazed at her age, Joanna just smiles and says "Believe it -- and believe Imedeen." Imedeen. The Skin Care Tablet.

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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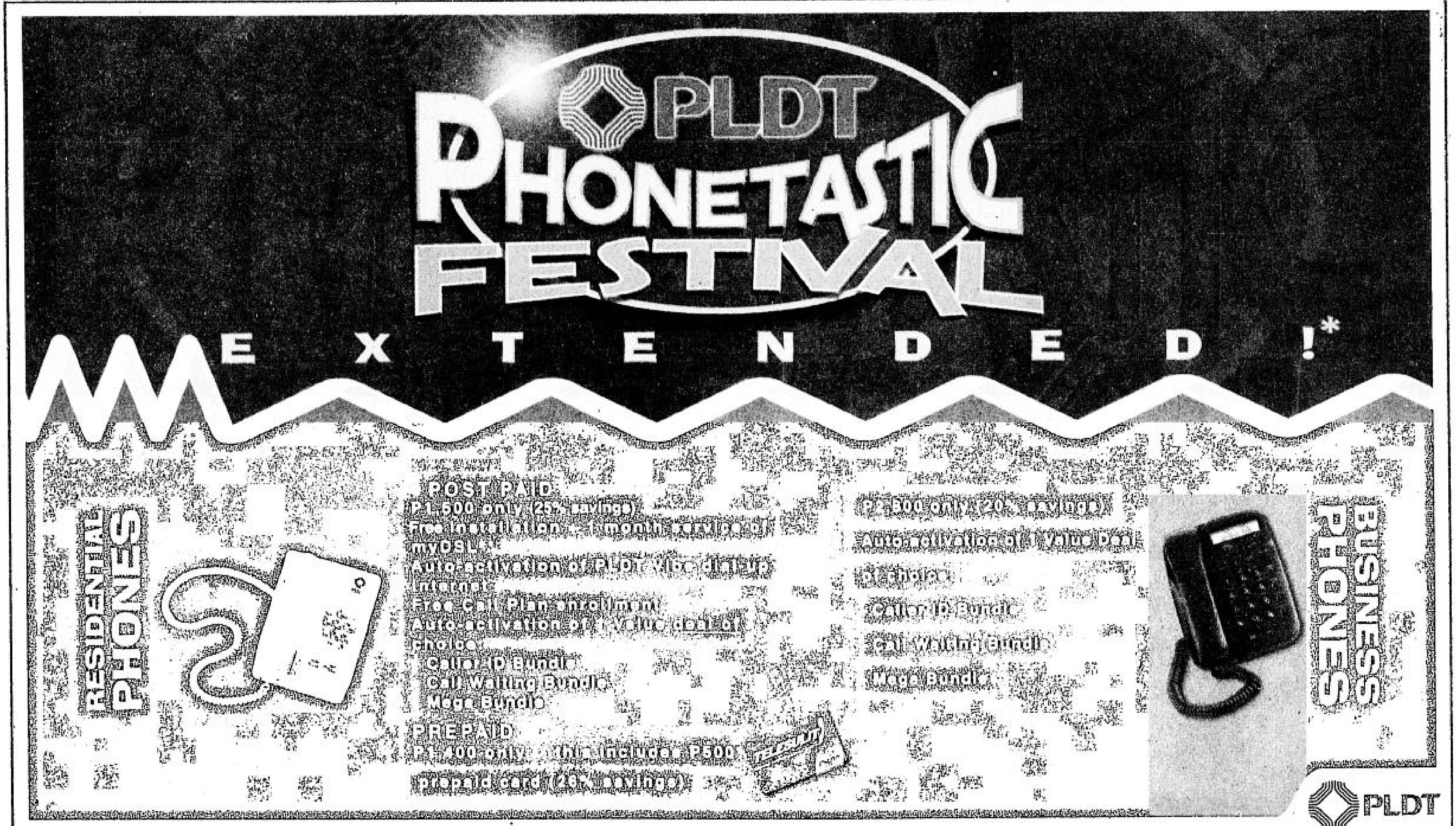

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Lucena - Mauban, Tayabas, Legazpi, San Pabló, Pila, Sta. Cruz, Paete
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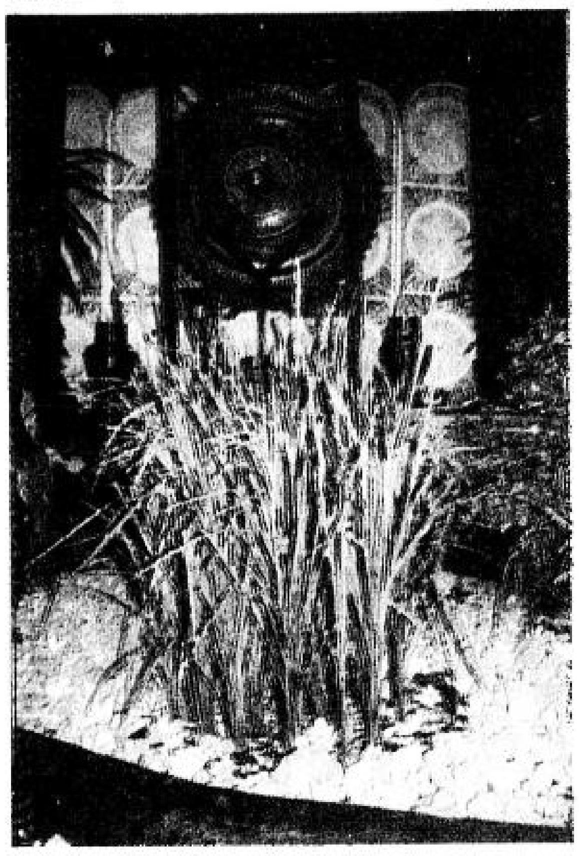
Zamboanga - Ozamis, Tagoloan, Oroquieta

GMM
North - Balara, Cubao, Del Monte, Diliman, Grace Park, Malabon, Novaliches, SM City, Valenzuela
South - Las Pinas, North Paranaque, Pasay, RC Bldg., SM Southmall, Tower Business Office
West - Binondo, Cinerama, Escolta, Paco, Sampaloc, SM Centerpoint, Tondo
East - Antipolo, Cainta, Greenhills/ POEA, Pasig, Mandaluyong, New Pasig, SM Megamall, South Marikina


RICE plants are featured for the first time in a garden show.

COELOGYNE rochussenii has unusual bell-shaped flowers and rat-tail spikes.

EXOTIC bromeliad with flower

DYED rice stalks

Rice joins ornamentals at center stage in Los Baños show

From page F1

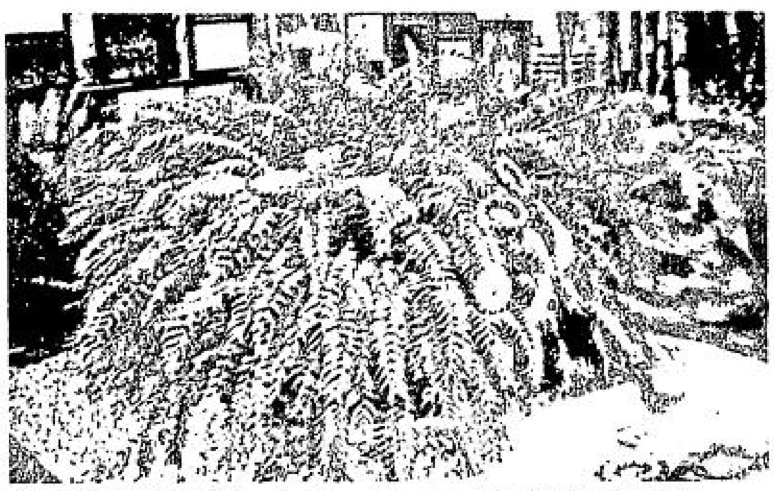
of the exhibit booths is just as exciting, giving this particular show a special touch of the Mindanao culture that is both educational as well as pleasing to the senses. Whoever thought of incorporating Muslim artifacts and other cultural features in the garden landscape deserves to be congratulated. The artistic pieces blend so well with the flora. There are handwoven cloths and mats, brassware, *sarimanok*, fans, indigenous musical instruments, *vinta* sails and sarong.

A pair of giant Mindanao staghorn ferns displayed at the center exhibit best highlights the theme.

Ethnic Mindanao dances were presented by a local dance troupe during the opening ceremony to complement the show motif. Guests of honor were the country's most prominent garden ladies, Felisa Chiongbian and Charita Puentespina. Although both active in the garden societies of Metro Manila, they're from the South. Chiongbian has her gardens in Cebu City while Puentespina owns the biggest garden farm in Davao City.

There's so much to say about the two well-known garden women. Suffice it to mention here that Chiongbian is considered the matriarch of the garden people, and she is proud to say she is the oldest of them all. By the way, she is one of the surviving founders of garden clubs that flourished during the 1970s.

CATTLEYA named Hadjai Delight wins Best in Show award.


MULTIAWARDED Zawia Cycad is owned by Pepito Cesario.

BROMELIADS for cut flower

> In keeping with its reputation for always coming up with something new, this year's Los Baños garden show features rice plants for landscape and 'palay' décor for indoors

Puentespina, on the other hand, is known here and abroad for mass-propagating the famous Philippine orchid Waling-waling. Two Davao women are actually credited for propagating the endangered native orchid to save it from extinction. They both set up their own laboratories and nurseries in Davao for the mass production of the orchid. The other lady is Derling Alvarez, another known name in the garden circle.

Tips to visitors

Folks planning to visit the show are forewarned that it can get very humid in Los Baños when the sun is out, and very wet when it rains. So, remember to bring umbrella, hat, handkerchiefs (even towels) and fan. There is no need to bring food or drinks, as there are several food stalls in the exhibition area.

The best way to view the exhibit is to start at the main showcase on center stage. Don't miss the inner section where the Vanda Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hybrids are displayed. Across from them is a unique native orchid that has pendants of flowers and buds on rat-tail stalks. Both orchids are from Puentespina, who has taken pains—and shouldered the cost—to transport the orchids, the giant staghorn ferns, exotic birds and other plants from Davao City.

From the center stage, viewers can go around the spacious and open-air Senior's Social Garden to view the individual exhibits, featuring some of the interesting hybrids produced and collected by local breeders. These include Aglaonema hybrids from the garden of Dr. Benito Vergara and Vic Chin, palms from Tony Pajaro, orchids and ferns from C. V, Lazaro, cycads of Pepito Cesario, orchids from Mabel Chua.

It is best to take things slow and easy to soak in the beauty of the garden exhibits amid the giant trees and plants of Makiling. From the exhibit, viewers can go to the garden markets for more exciting plant discoveries.

Competition winners

Best of Show awards went to Lazaro's Cattleya Hadjai Delight, Cesario's Cycads collection and the booth exhibit of Dr. Gil Divinagracia.

Other winners were Linda Lim's bromeliad *Vrisia sandaguendulenta*, Tess Rollon's *Bandera española*, Pajaro's Anthurium superbum, Lazaro's Australian fern, Pajaro's Star Palm, Jean Lasap's *Aerides quinquevulnera farmerii*, Gintong Talulot's Mokhara Maggie Oie, Cesario's *Zamia fisherii* and Divinagracia's Costus species.

There were special awards for plants composition (Divinagracia, first prize), orchids en masse (Dendrobium Charisse of Puentespina) and collection of a kind (Cesario).

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

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How to get a senior citizen ID

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My grandmother has come to live with us. She is 63 years old, has been a widow for more than 10 years and is in good health. She helps my mother attend to our *sari-sari* store, telling us that is how she can help pay for her meals. She has no source of income.

When my father comes home on pay day, he sometimes brings pizza (which we love), or invites us to an evening in a mall. Lola enjoys it but, secretly, my mother wishes they could save on expenses, like movie tickets and dinner, because Lola really enjoys them and she has a very good appetite.

A classmate told me that a senior citizen ID would help save on expenses. Can you please tell us how to get one? I cannot mention this to my father. He loves and respects Lola very much, he might get angry.

CLARITA

She can get an ID easily, especially since she is jobless and over 60 years old already. Have her bring her birth certificate and ID photo to the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs in the Mayor's Office.

Republic Act No. 7432, enacted in 1992, defines a senior citizen as a Philippine resident citizen at least 60 years old, with an annual income of not more than P60,000. It entitles senior citizens to 20-percent discounts in all establishments providing transport services, hotels, restaurants and recreation centers. (Of course, if you are with your *lola* in a taxi, the driver will naturally refuse to give a discount.) When in a restaurant, she has to order her meal separately to get a discount. When buying medicines, make sure she has the doctor's prescription because some drugstores ignore the mandated 20-percent discount.

Marriage encounter seminar

WE would like to inform you and your readers about the Marriage Encounter Weekend Seminar (MEWS) starting at 7 p.m. today until Oct. 20. Venue is the Claretian Missionary Sisters Formation House at 48-A Cenacle Drive, Sanville, Culiat, QC. Seminar fee is P2,500 per couple, inclusive of kit, board and lodging.

Your column has helped and touched many couples that are now active in this apostolate. The MEWS is for newly married couples as well as those that have been together for years. This is their opportunity to know more about their spouses and rediscover their love for each other. It strengthens the foundation of the family and, more importantly, teaches couples how to actively put God in marriage.

We help couples "discover in a new way their 'coupleness' and their couple power." Many problems of couples today result from being strangers to each other and not communicating in the proper way. They should give their marriage a break and enjoy newfound love. We ask them to give God a chance.

JERRY G. HERNANDEZ

Thank you for the timely reminder. To find out more about the Marriage Encounter Weekend, conducted by the Servants of the Holy Spirit Community, readers may call Jerry at 926-3002, Goy at 927-4415, Germie at 853-0110, Malou at (0919) 560-6496, Totoy at (0918) 325-7545 or Ronald at (0919) 363-9388.

This seminar covers many topics. Loving and caring children can offer this as a honeymoon weekend for their parents, or as an anniversary or birthday gift.

Couples going through a separation or annulment, couples wishing to prevent heartaches, couples who have retired from their jobs may find marriage encounter a good apostolate to keep busy in. It brings hardworking couples closer to God.

E-mail titadulce@ netscape. net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

GOINGS ON

Workshop speaker tackles techniques on how to arouse children's curiosity

METRO Working Mom invites everyone to this month's workshop which is set tomorrow, 9 a.m.-12 nn, on the 13/F ELJ Communication Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Avenue, QC. The speaker for this workshop is psychologist Bernie Azurin-Quimpo. She will tackle different techniques on encouraging kids to be curious and learn about the world. Call 637-1959.

KIDS FAIR. Check out the latest collection of knicker backer shorts and funky printed shirts for boys at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. The Indian hippie blouse paired with beaded jeans and floral capri pants and bohemian top are perfect for girls. All these are available at big discounts. A minimum P300 purchase from the children's section of the store will be your ticket to the Kids' Day Out fair. Clown magicians will perform comedy antics in a three-hour show tomorrow, 2 p.m., at the mall's entertainment center.

SALE. Metropolis Star in Alabang is holding a mall-wide sale until Oct 20. Get as much as 50-percent discount on selected items. Also holding mall-wide sales on the same dates are other malls of the Star Group of Malls—Starmall on Shaw Boulevard corner Edsa and MStar in Las Piñas.

SEMINAR. The Professional Librarians Review Center is holding a seminar-workshop on "The Practice of Accreditation: Building New Vision For Libraries in the New Millennium," until tomorrow at the White House Filipino Grill, E. Ramos Street, Cebu City. Resource speakers are Ernie Bhagwani, curator of the Heritage Group of Companies, and Virginia P. Gapuz, general manager of Great Books Trading and president of the Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions. Call 927-9858.

ANNIVERSARY SALE. Hang Ten's sixth birthday bash promo coincides with the clothing brand's commemoration of its 42nd year of providing quality yet affordable fashion to the youth around the globe. The madness sale is also a preparation for the arrival of Hang Ten's collections of shirts, pants and accessories due for release next month. There are 31 Hang Ten branches all over Metro Manila, Batangas, Cabanatuan, Cebu, Iloilo, Davao and Pampanga. Loyal patrons can likewise look forward to Hang Ten's newest branches in Malabon, Sucat and Cagayan de Oro. All Hang Ten products sold locally are imported.

PROMO. Maldita, ladies' fashion store, offers big discounts until Oct. 20. Shoppers can avail of the buy-one-take-one promo on selected ladies wear for only P199 and P499. Even more, fashionistas can avail of sale items up to 80-percent off. All items are on sale, including bags, shoes and other fashion accessories. Maldita's promo is valid only at Maldita stores located in all Robinsons Malls, Grand Pavilion Biñan and SM Megamall.

MALL ANNIVERSARY. Pavilion Mall in Biñan, Laguna, marks its third year with a three-day smorgasbord of events and gimmicks for its patrons and Biñan residents. The mall's operating hours is extended until 10 p.m. In "Shop Sarap Till You Drop sa Pavilion Mall" mallwide sale Oct. 18-20, shoppers can expect discounts of up to 70-percent from different participating stores. A buy-one-take-one promo is also offered on selected Janylin and Itil items. A mega bazaar is set on Oct. 19-20, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. at Building B (beside Jollibee). Medical Foundation Inc., Executive Optical, Asian Derma, Roche and Ayala Land Inc. offer free medical and dental services as well as medicines today, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Bridgeway. A Holy Mass will be offered 5 p.m. tommorow at the Building B parking lot. Call (049) 411-3599 or 520-8202.

BAZAAR. Avid Sales Corp. is one of the participants in the Senate of the Philippines anniversary bazaar, which is ongoing until today at the 3/F of the GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. On sale are items from Sony, Aiwa, Samsung, Moulinex, Krups, Sharp, Panasonic, Condura, Carrier and National. Shoppers may enjoy discounts of up to 40 percent on selected items and receive free premium items. Call 404-2168 and telefax 522-5714.

FOOD EXPO. The Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization Inc., the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development are organizing the 2nd Philippine Food Expo 2003 to be held at the SM Megatrade Halls, Jan. 29-Feb. 2, 2003. The event will gather some 200 small and medium companies from all over the country.

BAZAAR. The Manila Polo Club will hold the second Noel bazaar on Oct. 26-27. The bazaar will also share its proceeds with The Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation, Leukemic Indigent Funds Endowment and the Philippine Missions Association.

WORKSHOP. Yalan Trade, a one-stop shop for dried flowers, permanent botanicals, potpourri and other home décor, will conduct a free seminar/workshop on how to fill your home with holiday scents, 2 p.m. tomorrow at the AEK Building II, 40 E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC. Interior designer Nelle Abrogar will tackle basic candle making, techniques in melting wax, molding, adding holiday scents and creating different colored flames. Candle making kits will be available to participants at P350 up. Yalan Trade will also present Nestle Phils. in a holiday baking demonstration, featuring cooking guru Dorothy Ferreria on Oct. 26, 2 p.m. Call 732-1942/1954.

HOMECOMING. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Seminary, Sariaya, Quezon, will hold its 60th foundation anniversary grand alumni homecoming on Oct. 25-26 in Sariaya. The theme is "Muling Pagsasama-sama ng Masayang Pamilya sa Seminaryo ni Maria." All alumni are invited to attend the affair. Call Fr. Ejay Jarapa at (042) 525-8580, (0919) 873-5174 or director Floro Oliveros at 818-9511 local 4107.

WEEKEND MARKET. The Manila Traders Weekend Market will open on Nov. 9 at the Philippine Trade Center Compound across the Deparment of Foreign Affairs on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Fresh fruits and vegetables direct from the farms of Calabarzon provinces and fresh fish and seafoods from Cavite and Laguna de Bay will be available. Stalls for manufacturers, dealers, distributors, importers/exporters, wholesalers and food outlets are available on first-come, first-served basis. Call 410-1782, 925-7212/7365, (0917) 840-0026 or (0916) 333-0983.

DANCE PARTY. Club Royale de Manila invites everyone to a dance party, "United Nations Night," 7 p.m. on Oct. 25 at the North Greenhills Clubhouse, San Juan. Dr. Milette Avendaño Baleva will be crowned as Miss United Nations by Club Royale's chair and Miss United Nations 2000, Dr. Aurora Padolina-Perez. Baleva, a resident doctor at St. Luke's Hospital, will be assisted by Miss United Nations 2001 Letty Montenegro, Kay Cuisia (1999), Linda Lugtu-Cruz (1998) and Felly Ty-Sia (1997). The Soundstream Band will provide the music. Call 912-3289 to 93 and 439-0241.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT. Don't take the air you breathe for granted. Use an effective aircon filter like 3M Filtrete high-efficiency aircon filter products. Committed to providing pure and healthy indoor air, 3M Filtrete has electrostatic fibers that effectively magnetize and trap microorganisms. 3M Filtrete works by keeping these organisms trapped in the filter, and keep them from being circulated back into the air. Until Oct. 30, 3M Filtrete will be sold at 15-percent off its regular price at leading retail hardware stores (Ace, SM Workshop, True Value, Handy Man). 3M Filtrete is the only aircon filter that has passed the standards of the American Lung Association. Call 814-5859 or visit www.filtrete.com and www.lunguse.org.

ASEAN QUIZ CHAMPIONS
President Macapagal-Arroyo poses with the Asean Quiz Regional Finals grand prize winner, Retchell Catambay (extreme left), and second placer, Glorian Concepcion (center), during a courtesy call in Malacañang. The girls bested other outstanding Asean high schools students in the Bangkok competition recently. Also in photo are the girls' advisers, Dick Agbayani and Nancy Castillo.

GAYAK PILIPINO AWARDS 2002
Couturier Bibsy del Rosario (third from right) poses for a souvenir photo with Bb. Pilipinas International 2001 Maricar Tolosa (third from left) and veteran couturier Renée Salud (second from right) during the Gayak Pilipino Awards 2002 awards night at the Board Member Hermogenes Arayata Sports Complex, Tanza, Cavite.

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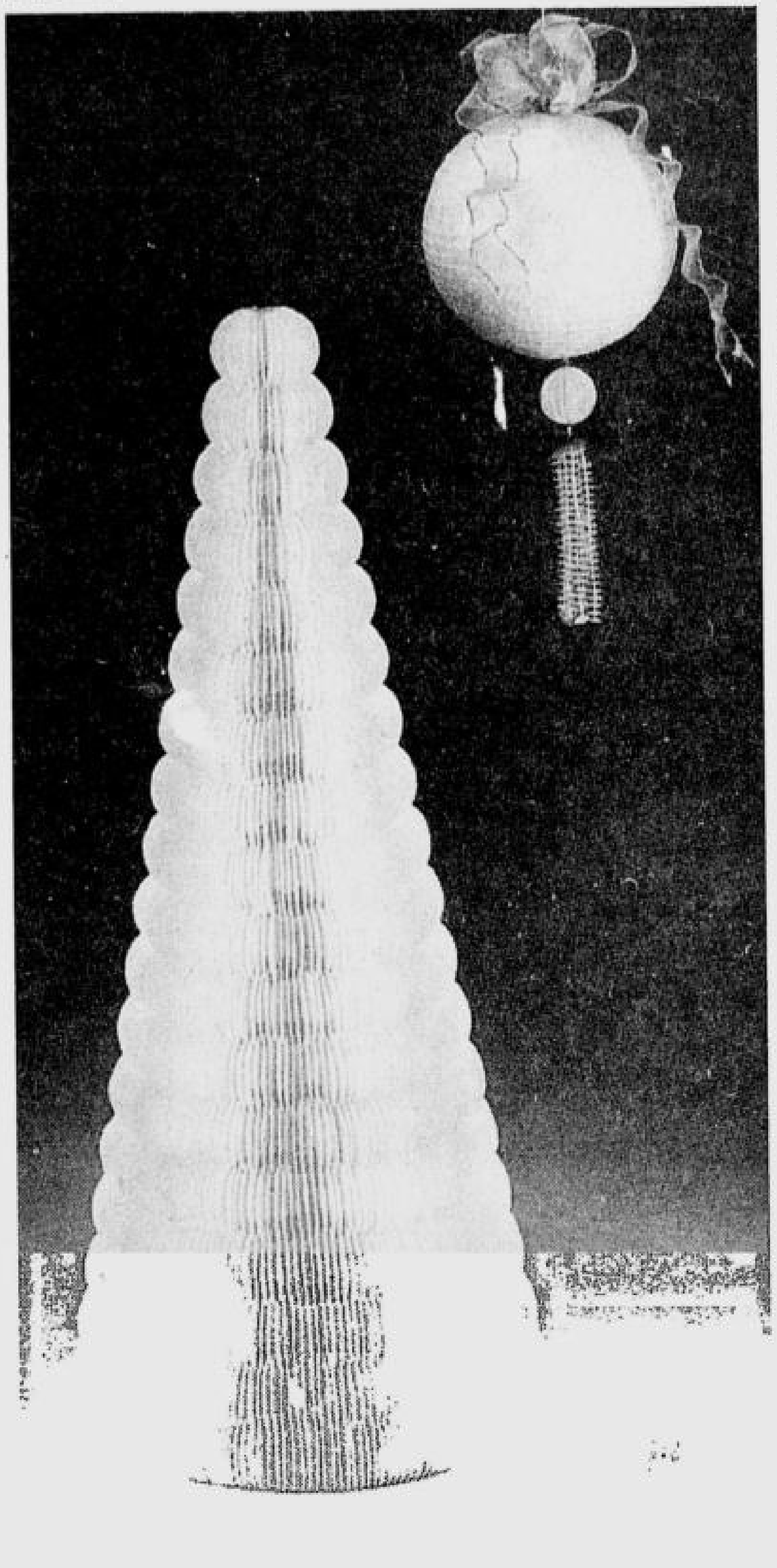


CAPIZ is transformed into elegant Christmas décor, designed by Rachy Cuna

RACHY Cuna

TINA Bonoan

JOSEF Crisanto

NICK Paterson

Pinoy creativity takes center stage again at Fame

ENPEKEI International Inc. fashions metal and leather tray, designed by Tina Bonoan

THE CENTER for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) has gathered a roster of sterling talents for Manila Fame International (MFi), its pioneering and trail-blazing biannual trade show, Oct. 21-24.

This year's exhibit brings together the creativity of Bettina Bonoan, Rachy Cuna, the Fashion and Design Council of the Philippines' (FDCP) PJ Arañador, Tippi Ocampo, Dong Omaga Diaz, Joji Lloren and Dennis Lustico; Reimon Gutierrez, Nick Paterson and Josef Crisanto.

The group will once again showcase Pinoy resourcefulness and imagination by using traditional materials—fiber, wood, stone, shells, forest vines and grasses—in decidedly non-traditional designs and applications, demonstrating that the *borloloy* mentality has been replaced by a more modern sensibility combined with quality craftsmanship and natural materials.

The Filipino's creativity in design and the use of indigenous materials will be displayed to their best advantage in furnishings, houseware, fashion accessories, gift and holiday décor.

The flagship project of Citem, the export promotions agency of the Department of Trade and Industry, and the longest-running trade show of its kind in the country, Fame (Furnishings and Apparel Manufacturers Exchange) promotes the newest and best locally designed and manufactured products. Many successful exporters have used the show to launch their products in the world market.

Tina Bonoan, an architecture undergraduate from the University of the Philippines, was, until recently, the editor in chief of BluPrint magazine. Abaca and rattan will figure prominently in the designs she developed for the Palengke (A Marketplace for Home Ideas) special setting, at the World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM).

Rachy Cuna, known as the "Floral Architect of the Philippines," has dabbled in Chinese painting, interior and jewelry design and party styling. For his second stint as Manila Fame consultant for Paskuhan (A Christmas Village), Cuna will capture the spirit of peace and serenity in his Christmas Garden setting, also at the WTCMM.

A dazzling collection of holiday décor will be set against a background of green, including 15 fresh-cut pine trees ranging in size from 4 ft to 8 ft. Shades of white will prevail, with touches of rainbow hues.

DONG Omaga Diaz, Dennis Lustico, Tippi Ocampo, PJ Arañador and Jojie Lloren

REIMON Gutierrez

Five designers from the FDCP show their wares in the Tindahan (The Fashion Store) setting at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC). Inspired by the "club scene," the atmosphere will be about sensuality and sophistication, dramatized by a play of light and energized by hot, vibrant colors. The exhibit will feature cutting-edge fashion accessory collections of the five FDCP designers.

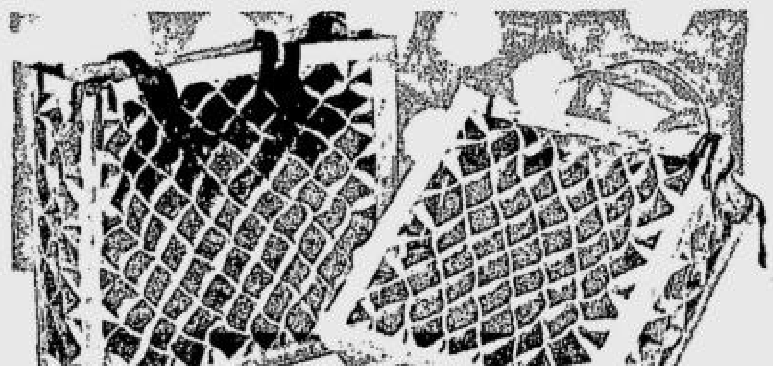
This year, MFi highlights Region 8 (Biliran, Leyte, Samar).

As part of Design Residency Program, a collaboration between the British Council-Philippines and Citem to enhance merchandise design and production techniques of the country's craftsmen, manufacturers and exporters, British designer Paterson worked with 10 companies, whose products will be featured in a special setting at WTCMM.

Paterson is a graduate of the prestigious Royal College of Art (London) and, with fellow graduate Nick Jinkinson, heads Studio Platform, a product and furniture design consultancy. They have won a number of international design awards.

Marseille-based Filipino Crisanto is a "balik-Citem," having been the merchandise consultant for Palengke in the April 2001 MFi. This time, he is doing the Swarovski special setting, a furniture and fashion event, and working with Cebuano designers. For "loveseats," furniture pieces using the patterns of the lowly *tsinelas* (slippers), flip-flops and Swarovski crystals will be used.

Primarily a show for buyers, MFi will be open to the public only on the last day, Oct. 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Only those aged 16 years and above will be allowed in the exhibit area. Entrance fee is P150. Visit www.citem.com.ph/manilafame.



MUGAN Bisaya Handicrafts bags made of *guinit* on pressed coco coir and *sinamay* by Pitad Inc. All designed by Reimon Gutierrez

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CGFI and cell phone manufacturer join hands in nurturing nature

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE CLEAN and Green Foundation Inc. (CGFI) is such a well-oiled NGO that environment-conscious business establishments, foreign and local, have no problem joining its advocacies and projects. The projects are so well defined, they make it easy for helping hands to identify and work for them.

One of the CGFI's projects is the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, the park within a park at the Luneta (established in 1995). The CFGI's latest partner in maintaining it is Nokia, the well-known cell phone supplier. Nokia is no stranger to CGFI, being a participant in Pasig River rehabilitation efforts.

According to the company's country general manager Parikshit Bhasin, Nokia's regional directive concerning the environment is "Nurture Nature." His directive encourages employees to do their share in preserving nature through a volunteer program called "Nokia Helping Hands."

The Orchidarium has less than two years before the expiration of its 10-year lease agreement with the city government. This has not hampered CGFI from pursuing its improvement and maintenance programs, even signing an MOA with Nokia this October for such purposes.

Bhasin explains that his company will provide CGFI with a three-year grant of $120,000, specifically for developing a distinct site in the Orchidarium, which will be called Nokia Nurtured Zone. This Zone will house the Butterfly Pavilion, a rainforest and an Educational Module area.

Even as it undertakes this new project, Nokia continues to help in the rehabilitation of the Pasig River and promotion of the importance of water as a natural resource. To help the water project is a Water Mobile Resource Center, a rolling laboratory that will visit elementary and secondary schools to allow pupils to study, research, conduct experiments involving water, and teach them proper ways to utilize and conserve it.

This comes at a crucial time, says former First Lady Amelita M. Ramos, CGFI chair, because it will benefit public schools, 22 percent of which do not have science laboratories, and the rest, only inadequate facilities.

There will also be environmental learning sessions for students, teachers and the general public through another program called "Mondays with Nokia at the Orchidarium."

The CGFI's lease of the property occupied by the Orchidarium ends in 2004. If Manila City officials won't renew it, the Orchidarium will have to transfer somewhere else. This will be a big loss for Manila folk who seek out this park within a park to relax and get some relief from the traffic congestion, noise and pollution they encounter every day.

But we like to be optimistic and think that an extended lease is forthcoming.

Unep report

The United Nations Environment Programme (Unep) recently released its Global Environment Outlook 3 (GEO 3) report that tells us how essential it is to care for our planet *now*, and not take it for granted.

The overall outlook, according to the report, is that there has been a steady decline in the environment, especially across large parts of the developing world, a decline that has been taking place for the past 30 years.

The report covers 1972-2002 and enumerates eight major areas of concern. The first is **land resources**. Increasing food production is identified as the leading cause of land degradation. Expansion of agricultural lands and disturbance of natural habitats such as forests and wetlands contribute to the degradation, which, in turn, is responsible for water stress and food scarcity.

The second is **forests**. The world's natural forests measure 2,870 million ha, or 21.4 percent of the land area of the world. The rate of deforestation of tropical forests is almost one percent annually.

Biodiversity. Mammal and bird species are threatened globally due to land conversion, climate change, pollution, unsustainable harvests and introduction of exotic species.

Freshwater. About 1.1 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water, and about 2.4 billion have no adequate sanitation, resulting in water-related diseases and millions of deaths every year.

Coastal and marine areas. Degradation is caused by population growth, increasing urbanization, industrialization and tourism (construction of beach resorts and other similar facilities).

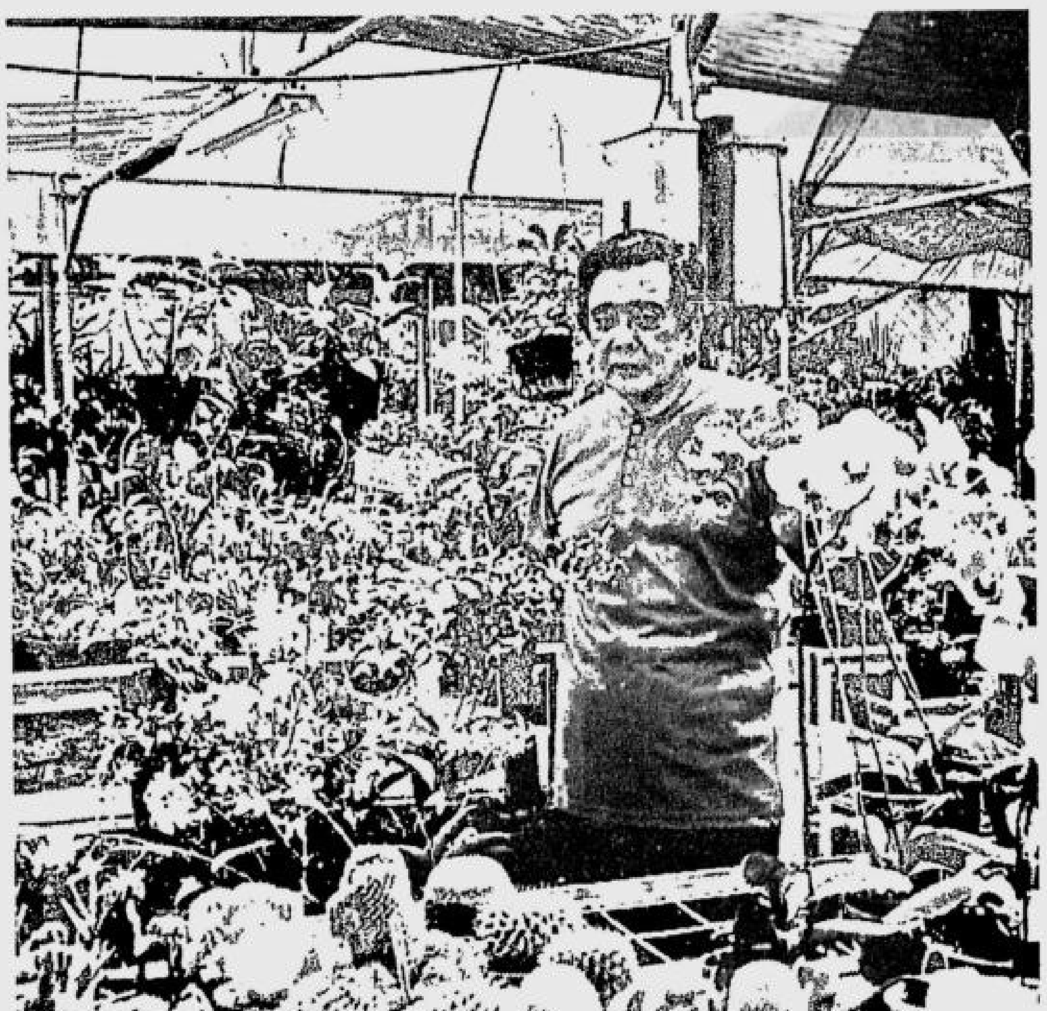
Atmosphere. The increase of CO2 in the atmosphere has contributed to global warming. The depletion of the ozone layer has reached alarming levels.

Urban areas. Half the world's population (47 percent) now lives in urban areas, with ¼ of the urban population living below the poverty line, a number expected to grow in the coming years, bringing with it problems of resource consumption and waste discharge.

Disasters. The incidence of disasters caused by water or lack of it (examples: drought, windstorms and floods) has increased. Experts tend to link these to the global mean temperature.

The facts and figures quoted here were taken from the LingkodTao-Kalikasan newsletter of September this year. One will note, sadly, that many aspects of the report applies to the Philippines.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com



BIG SALE AT SEEDLING BANK

The Manila Seedling Bank Foundation Inc., the largest seedling nursery in the country, will hold its traditional Bagsak-Presyo Sale Oct. 25-Nov. 3. Buyers can get discounts of up to 50 percent on various fruit trees and forest trees—guapple at P4 each, and *guyabano*, *langka*, carabao mango, *kasoy*, *santol* and *atis* at P5.

Six-foot-tall saplings sell for P15-P25. Grafted seedlings are available at 30- to 35-percent discounts. Purificacion Orchids, King Louie Flowers and Plants, Bulacan Garden, Philippine Flowermart, Greenworld Orchids, Javiland, Puentespina Orchids, Green 2000, PJ Nepomuceno Orchids and Pet Center, and Lambana Tropical Garden will sell at discounted prices. Flowers for All Saints' Day and poinsettias for the Christmas season will be available. Orchids and ornamentals will also be on sale. Call 929-9312, 924-0166/7001.

A QUIET row of Maia Alta homes, inspired by the Italian countryside

A WIDE road network inside Citta Italia

New housing makes the most of nature

CROWN Asia, a pioneer in master-planned communities in the country, allows its clients to enjoy fully the beauty of nature.

Maia Alta in Antipolo captures the best the city has to offer—rolling hills, exhilarating views and a sense of calm. The clubhouse, tennis and basketball courts, swimming pool, convenience stores, parks and playgrounds, footpaths and jogging lanes, are all part of a well-planned community designed to complement its natural setting.

Maia Alta development now has four phases: The Hills of Maia Alta, The Gardens of Maia Alta, the exclusive Orchard of Maia Alta and Groves of Maia Alta. It is only a 45-minute drive from Makati, 30 minutes away from the Ortigas Center, and a few minutes away from schools like the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, Assumption-Antipolo and De La Salle-Antipolo. Popular malls like Robinsons and Sta. Lucia are just a short ride away.

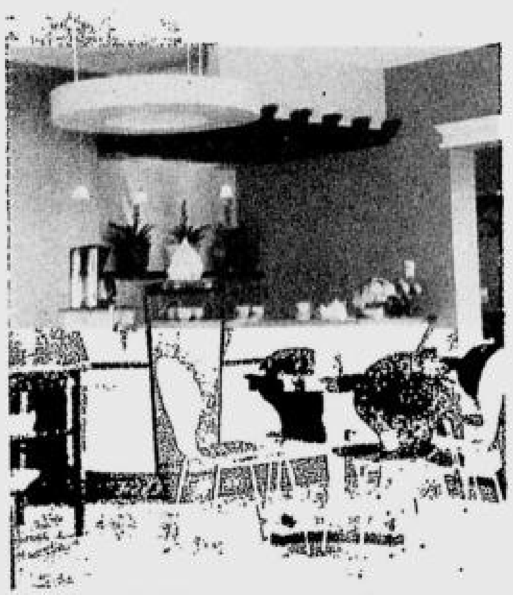
Citta Italia in Imus, Cavite, which is Italian in concept, has undergone several phases of development: Delano, Vedezia, Roma, Messina and Verona, Palladia and Lessinia, Brecia and Vicenza.

The Piazza Italia, Citta Italia's exclusive clubhouse, has basketball and tennis courts, gym, multipurpose hall, swimming pool and playgrounds.

Citta Italia is only a few minutes away from SM Bacoor, Robinsons, Makro, Wattermart and exclusive schools like De La Salle-Dasmariñas and Elizabeth Seton in Imus; and several kilometers away from the business districts of Alabang and Makati.

Maia Alta and Citta Italia properties are also reasonably priced. Aside from affordable rates, they offer easy financing schemes. Call 726-0073 to 74 (Maia Alta hotline) or 873-6709/1614 (Citta Italia hotline).

Crown Asia will also have another Italian-themed development in Cabuyao, Laguna, soon.



THE PORTOFINO office is set in a cozy, relaxing cafe-like environment.

Preview a new lifestyle

GET a preview of life the Portofino-style by visiting its office and site in Alabang.

Portofino Alabang is the latest offering of Brittany Prime HUB (Habitats under Brittany). It gives you a taste of exuberant Mediterranean living.

Like every development by Brittany Prime HUB, Portofino Alabang is meticulously planned. Portofino Heights, the residential area, is being thoughtfully transformed into a cluster community, built around a beautifully landscaped common area. Underground power and communication cables give natural open views. The development has its own clubhouse and various recreational amenities for a wide range of lifestyle options without having to leave the neighborhood.

Portofino Alabang is a self-contained city within reach of other cities. It is readily accessible, bounded by main thoroughfares, and is just 10 minutes away from Alabang Town Center, and a few minutes away from prime business areas, high-end malls and other plush subdivisions.

Call 850-6986/3084 or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

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Fluorescent Tube (TL40)
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LUZON : Robinsons Place Imus • Robinsons Town Mall, Los Baños • Waltermart Calamba • Waltermart Carmona • Waltermart Dasmariñas • Waltermart General Trias • Waltermart Sta. Rosa • LCC Central Mall, Naga • LCC Complex, Legaspi • Center Mall, Baguio • Magic Star, Tarlac • Mega Center, The Mall, Cabanatuan
VISAYAS/MINDANAO : Robinsons Place Cebu • Robinsons Place Bacolod • Robinsons Place Iloilo • Marymart Center, Iloilo • Gaisano City, Roxas • Gaisano Mall, Davao • Limketkai Center, Cagayan de Oro

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3808 Series of 2002.

Showcase of Javanese and Balinese art

NINA Malvar, managing director of Balinese Landscapes, recently ventured into the business of furniture and art via Kartini Asia Inc. The Kartini showroom, located at 12 Palace St., BF Homes International, Las Piñas City, showcases tropical landscape designs and antique furniture and art pieces from Indonesia.

The Javanese and Balinese collection includes sculptures and statues in terracotta, stone and wood; antique glass paintings from the islands of Madura and Sumatra; antique oil paintings and those of contemporary masters; batik paintings; masks, shields, windows, doors, stone garden statues and decorative wall and water spouts; traditional Balinese garden lanterns; exquisite rattan woven carpets and other interior design accessories.

Kartini Asia is a place for design and art enthusiasts, architects and those who are into creating houses and buildings, resorts, hotels and restaurants. The showroom also takes pride in its own ethnic and Mediterranean designs of hurricane candles for both garden and interiors, complete with matching candle holders in wood or copper-iron material. Candles in various scents, forms and texture are executed by Candle with Care, Doc's Candles and Purple Candle.

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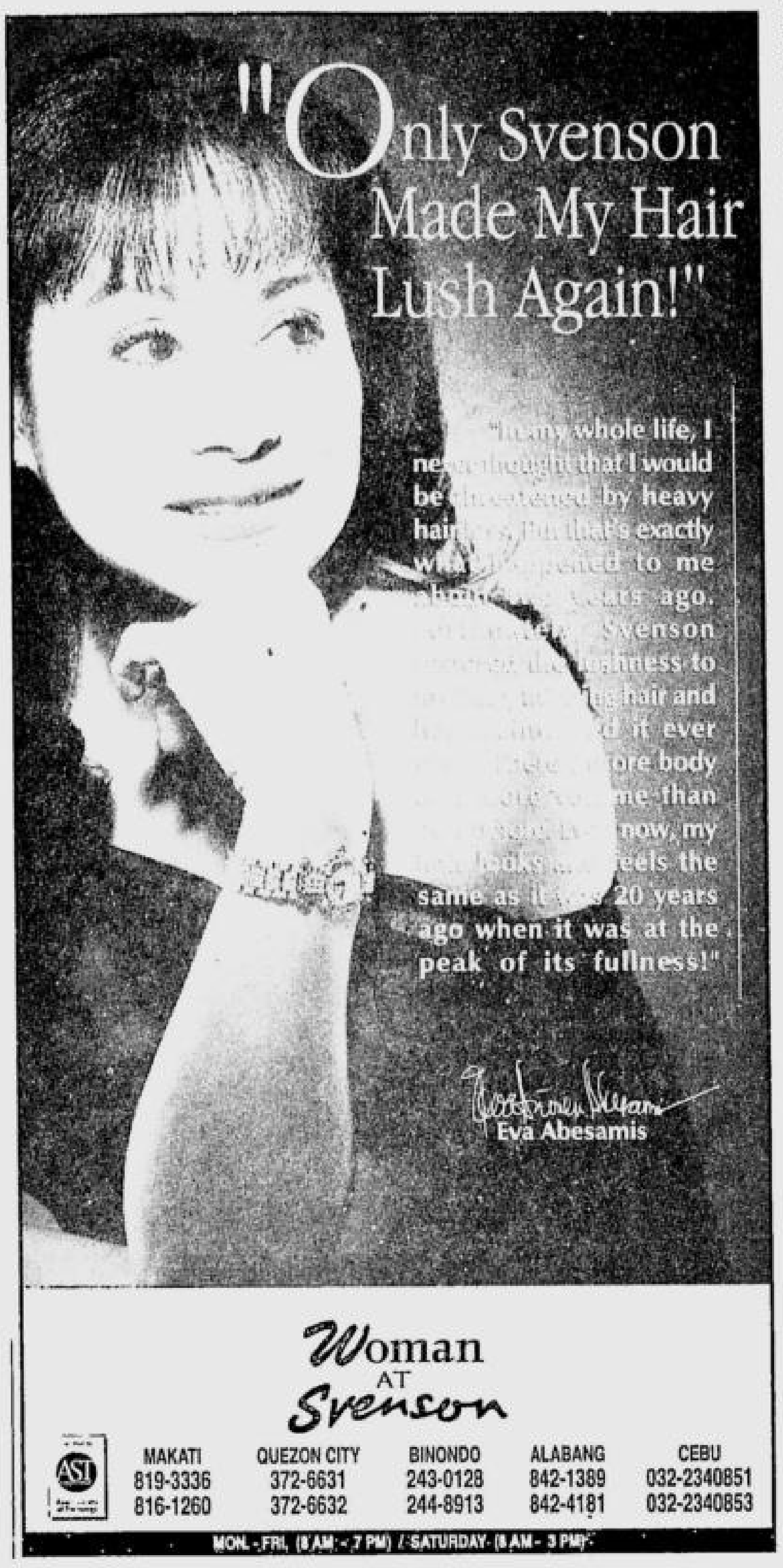
DR.MARTENS
SHOES & APPAREL

DM's at SM City North Edsa Annex and Festival Supermall



"Only Svenson Made My Hair Lush Again!"

"In my whole life, I never thought that I would be [illegible] by heavy hair. But that's exactly what happened to me [illegible] years ago. [illegible] Svenson [illegible] lushness to [illegible] hair and [illegible] it ever [illegible] more body [illegible] me than [illegible] now, my hair looks and feels the same as it was 20 years ago when it was at the peak of its fullness!"

Eva Abesamis

Woman AT Svenson

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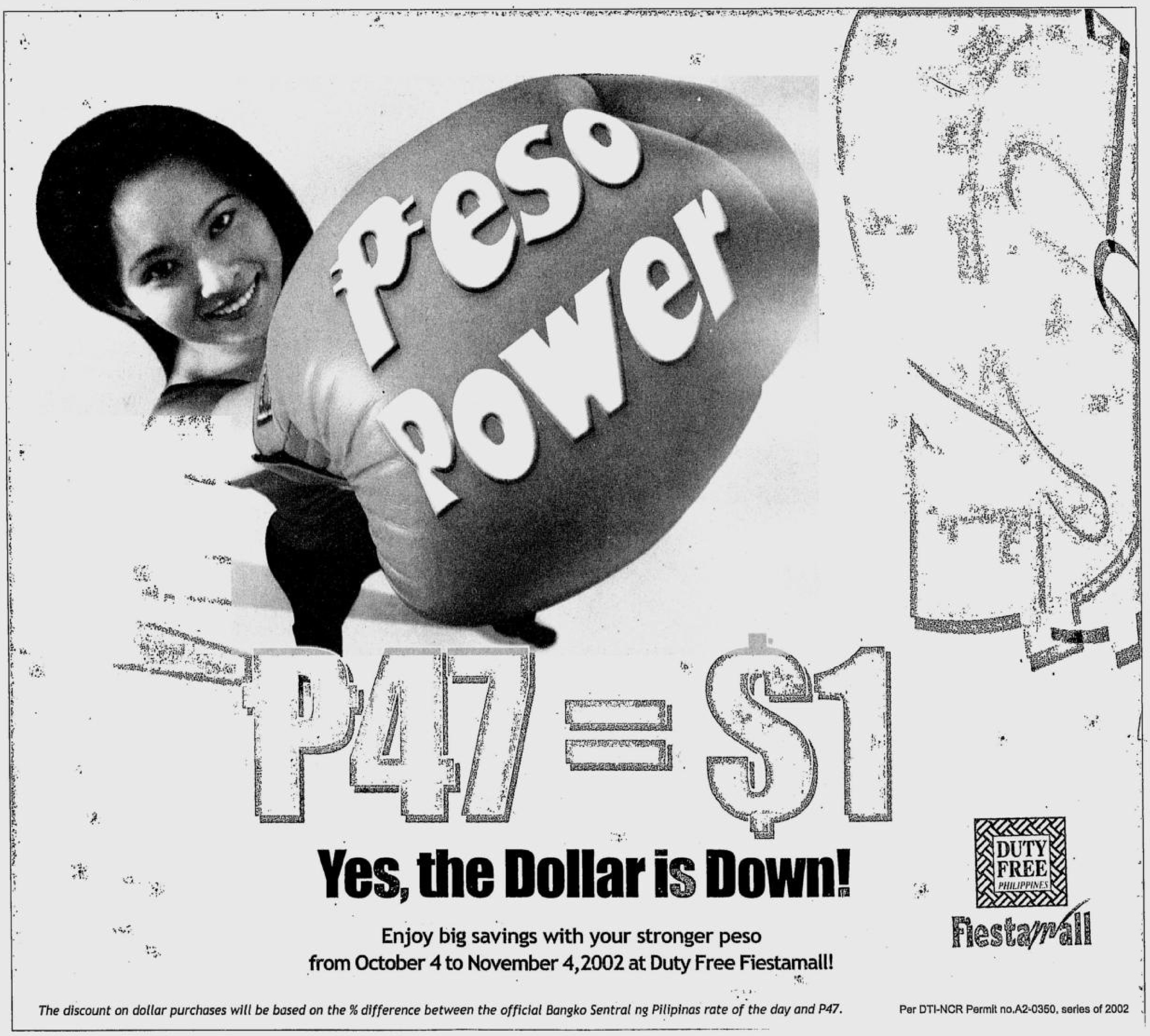

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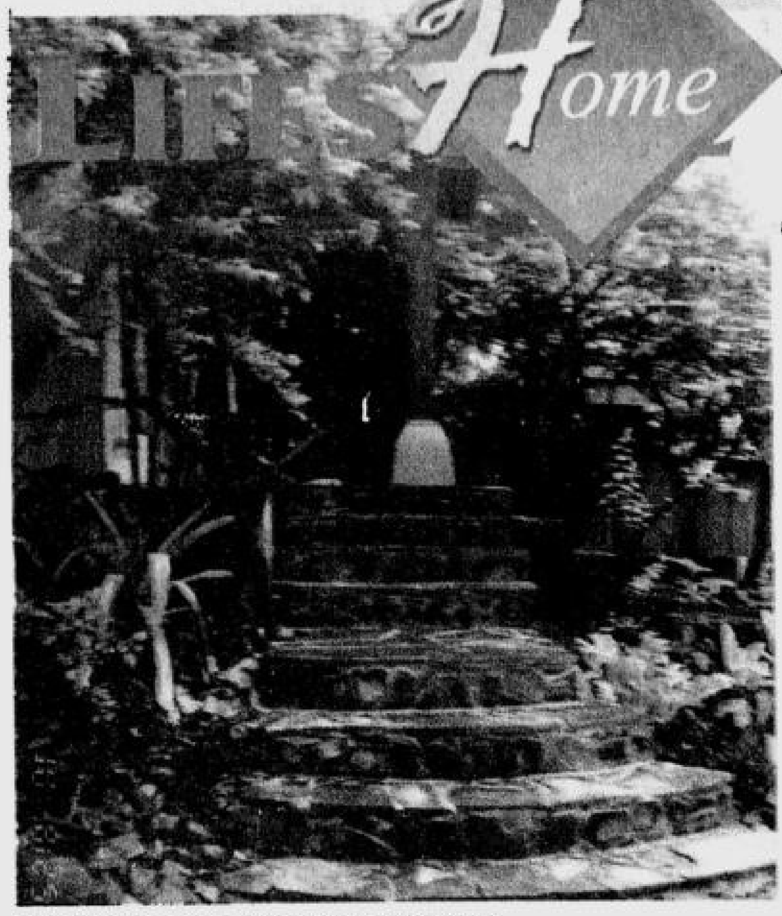
Per DTI-NCR Permit no.A2-0350, series of 2002



BEHIND the small gate are two flights of stone steps under a canopy of leaves from fully grown trees.

Where artists find a creative harbor

In Antique, painter Edsel Moscoso has been building a beachside home that will welcome artists and writers who are seeking to be inspired and to be sheltered from the ravages of urban life

By Edsel H. Moscoso
Contributor

ALL OF us have this secret dream of building our own piece of paradise. For two years now, I have been building this house, or complex for that matter, as a refuge for artists, allowing the place to dictate to me what to do with it. I have been a willing listener and my response is, as always, instinctive. It is the way I want my sense of aesthetics to grow.

Maybe it is not too late to pursue the idea of setting up a self-sustaining foundation to support and house artists. In the innermost peace of my study, I first formulated the plan.

My soul, I have found out, is evolving with this most interesting of enterprises. The artistic absorption alone is well worth all the time and resources spent. Slowly and inexorably, I

WHERE/ p.G2

NOTE the intricately carved Balinese door with its gilded surface and how it offers a supporting contrast to the yellow-colored "anopog" perimeter wall. A marriage made in heaven.

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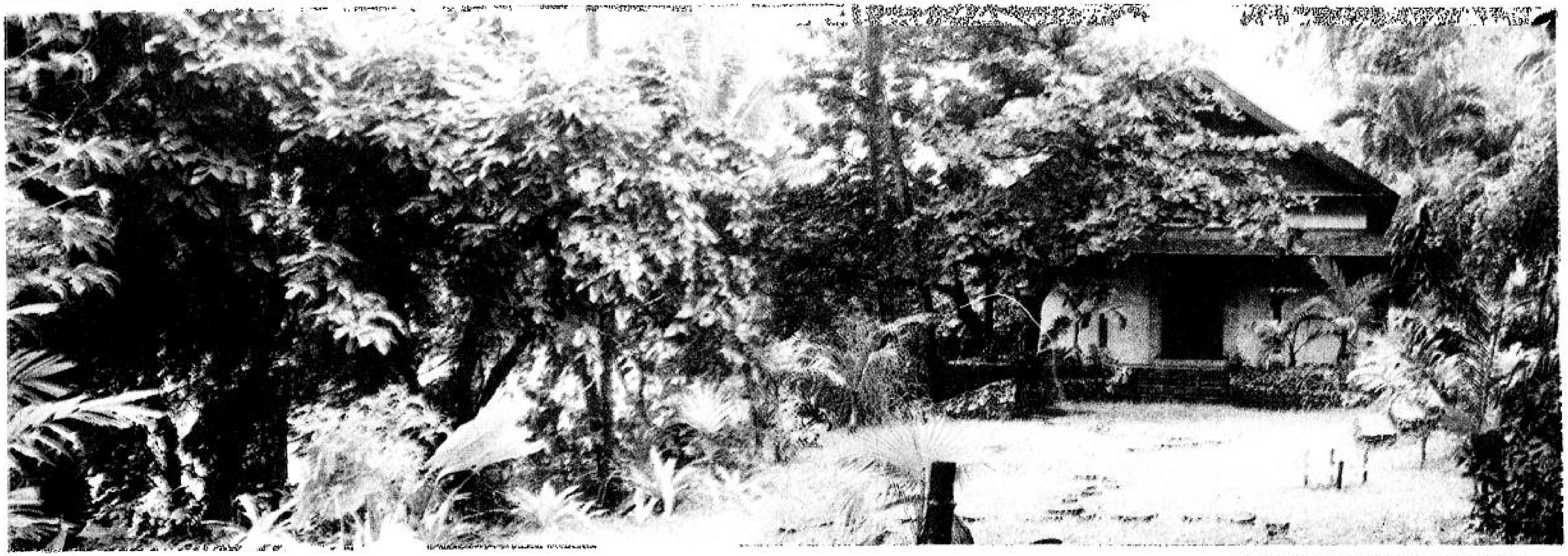
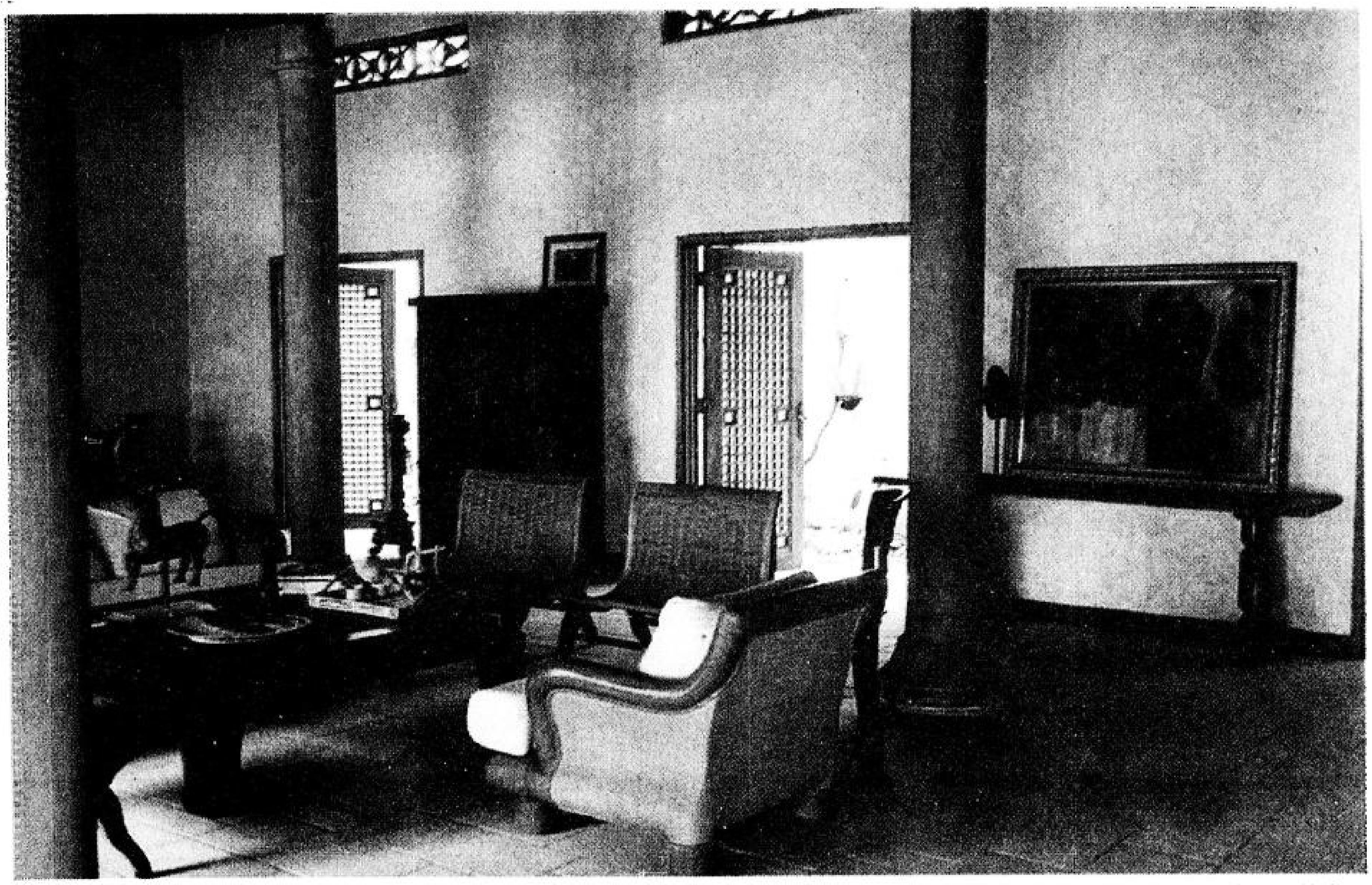


THE WHOLE pavilion is an integrated design by Cebuano architect Ernesto Maderazo II. Main requirement is for him to design the best house he is capable of producing, without compromise. Main door is an antique door from Rajasthan, India. On top of it is an antique Thai temple gable with the winged Garuda as a central motif. Lording it over the roof is a *panulong* carved by Maranao artisans out of *barimbingan* wood, the hardest wood in the forest of Lanao.



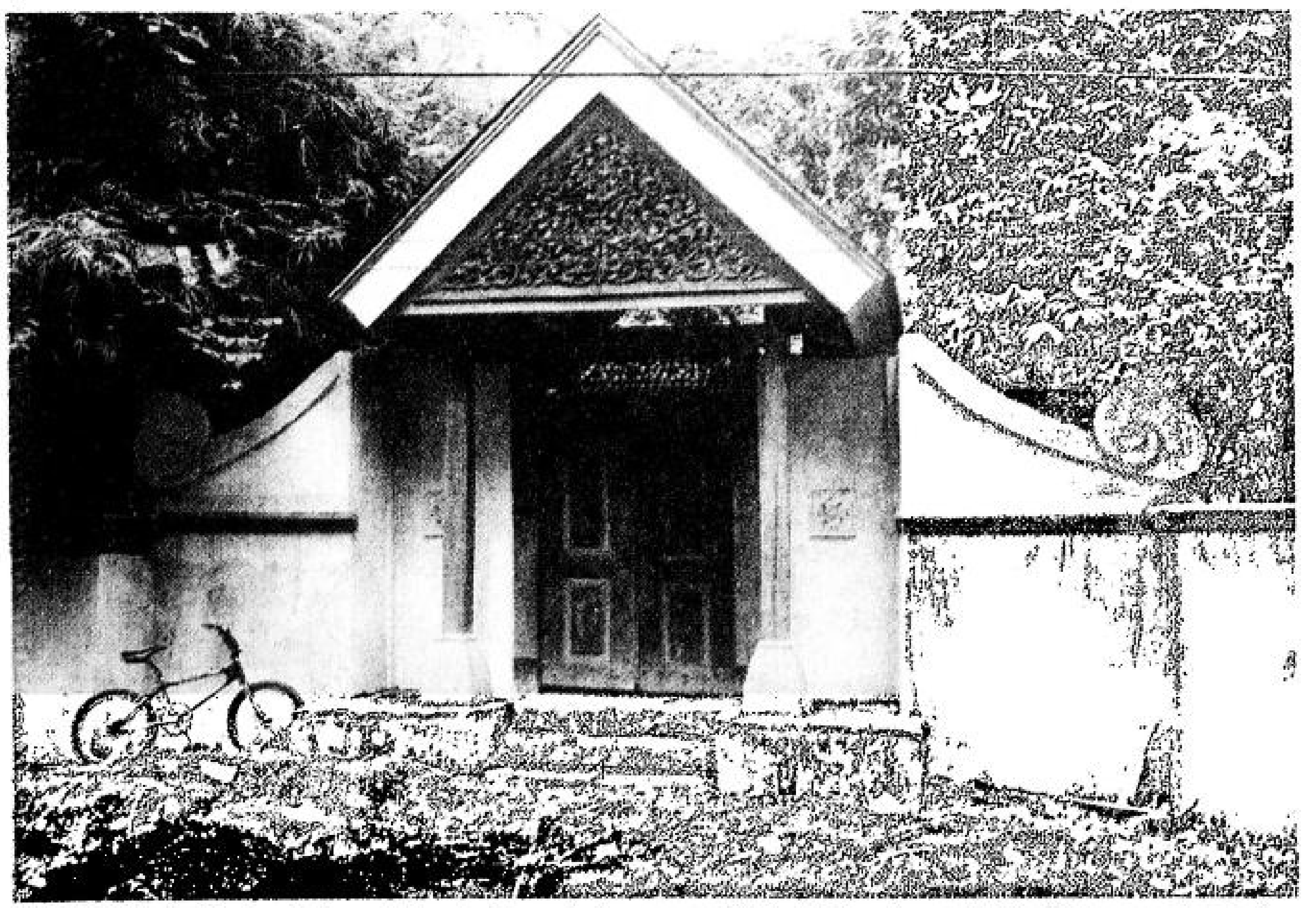
COFFEE table is Ming Dynasty and bronze horse is Han Dynasty, with its clean lucite stand. Ceramic plate is an art piece by potter Lanelle Abueva. The stoneware coffee set is by another potter, Ugo Bigyan. Commodious rattan sofa is by Ed Yrezabal while the antique console table in the background is from Bohol. On top of the console table is a painting of young Filipino artist Pedro Felix Garcia, undoubtedly the best young artist of his generation.

POCKET garden flanks the open lounge area with its small antique door from Madura. Huge stone statue of an "apsara" is of volcanic rock from Borobodur, Indonesia.

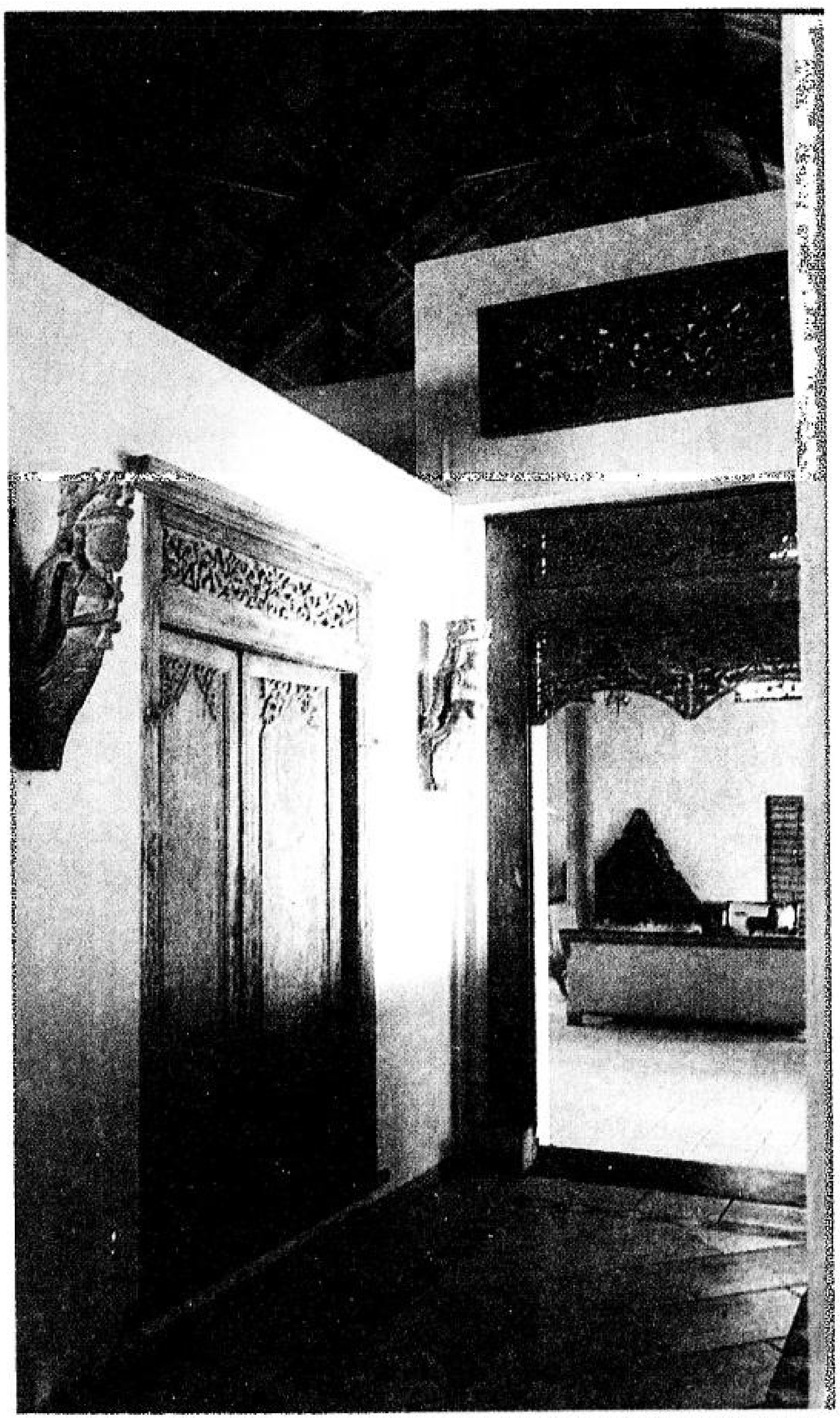
Where artists find a creative harbor

From page G1

With Cebuano architect Ernesto Maderazo II, Moscoso is evolving 'a house with a high sense of drama.' It is also a house that is worth a lot, considering the number of paintings its owner has exchanged for Balinese doors, Burmese cabinets, Starcke bathroom fixtures—things that showcase 'good taste, sobriety and subtlety'



"LA PORTA Del Anima," the window to the soul, has a very distinct Asian flavor. It is in fact an amalgam of various designs from different Asiatic cultures. The pyramidal temple gable is Thai, while the little door is from Bali. The rosette stone squares carved from *paras* stones are also from Bali. The pedimented sculptural carvings in cement are [illegible] Ernie Caballa, a homegrown mason from Cebu.



ANTIQUE door of the dining room is a Javanese "candi bentar" flanked by two Indian figure heads taken from an old swing. On top of the Balinese door is a carved Madurese lintel. The travertine floor has a decorative Venetian mosaic edging. Note the height of the ceiling, which is nine meters to be exact.

Where artists find a creative harbor

From page G2

have become one with the project.

Durungkaan is a product of culture-sharing. The word means "docking place," where you berth your boat, and that is what I have named this home for artists visual and literary.

It is one project where souls meet together to discuss possibilities of working out their own idea of paradise. We dream of our own version of Shangri-La.

Follow the heart

The way to realize Durungkaan is to follow my heart. Where it will lead me is not for me to question. One never embarks on an adventure knowing every thing; it is precisely called an adventure because nothing is known, only a glimmer of a promise.

Durungkaan, to start with, is Nature's perfect gift. It would be indecent to present it as a structure that, in its essence, is not perfection itself. Our hearts will always evolve toward that sense of perfection.

> Moscoso hopes to invite artists to stay and do their best work, or even for just a few days, to share some brewed coffee, 'linidgid na mais' or the fresh catch of the day

There is a need to maintain strict attention to proper detailing. We have to conjure up more fantasy to assure the creation of an atmosphere that is dignified and casual at the same time. Play with the elements of light to create a soothing and relaxing ambiance. Perfect the art of mixing furniture for their textured contrast and shapes. Never be intimidated by sheer shape; rather, strive for that perfect orchestration of all the artistic decorative elements. Luxury will have to be presented in a very insouciant manner as much as possible.

ANTIQUE-BORN Moscoso has exhibited in Stockholm, Copenhagen, Berlin, Bulgaria, Bucharest, Sarajevo, Bosnia, Serbia, Athens, Madrid, Paris and Monte Carlo, among other countries.

PHOTO: ROGER CARPIO

VIEW of the shoreline shows the natural coral outcroppings during low tide.

I am building the complex for a reason encompassed only by my love for our local and national traditions coupled with similar other traditional arts and culture of other nationalities. All together in the house, these cultural motifs will co-exist harmoniously side by side, brought together by the well guided and mature artistic sensibility of a creative individual.

It is interesting to note how things evolve out of their own accord, seeking their own flow in the completion of things. My soul understands its own education in the way matters flow.

After this project, I will never again question the right of even the minutest of details to exist in supporting the existence of the whole.

If a house is to follow its own evolution into being, much depends on the owner.

The importance of having the right culture to guide its completion can never be assailed. The interplay of elements is always its own right of evolution. Even complementing elements have to exist to evolve their own different meanings.

A house, to be appreciated, should seek to evolve like the being of its owner. Hand-in-hand, it should perform the dance of an artist's creative spirit.

Today, I am taking the option to start living a quiet, sedate but stylish way of life. My personal environment will be supplied with the needs of my artistic spirit.

I will continually evolve with my environment, taking my cues from the demands of my place that manages to seek its own growth with what I can supply it, as I flow with the tides of life.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE G5

ALL ABOARD!

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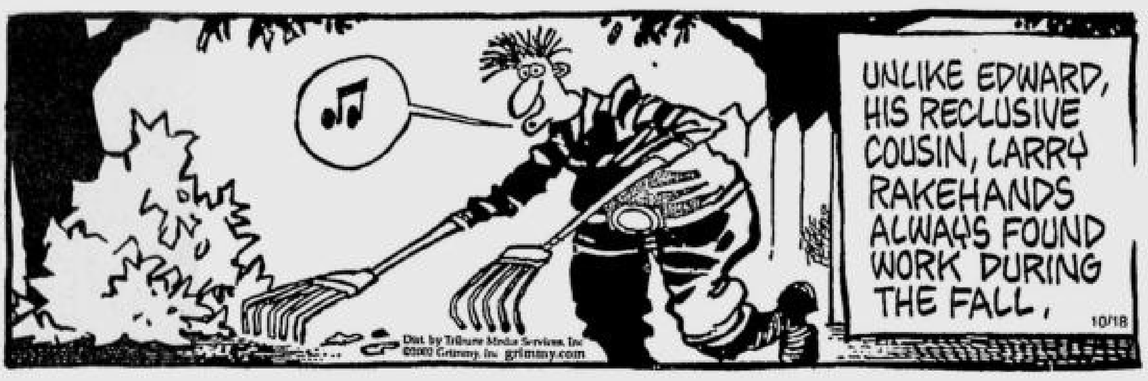
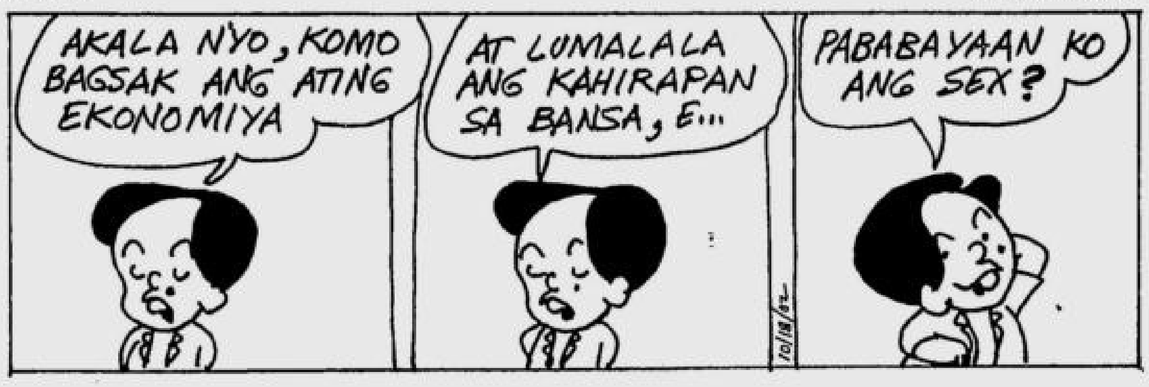
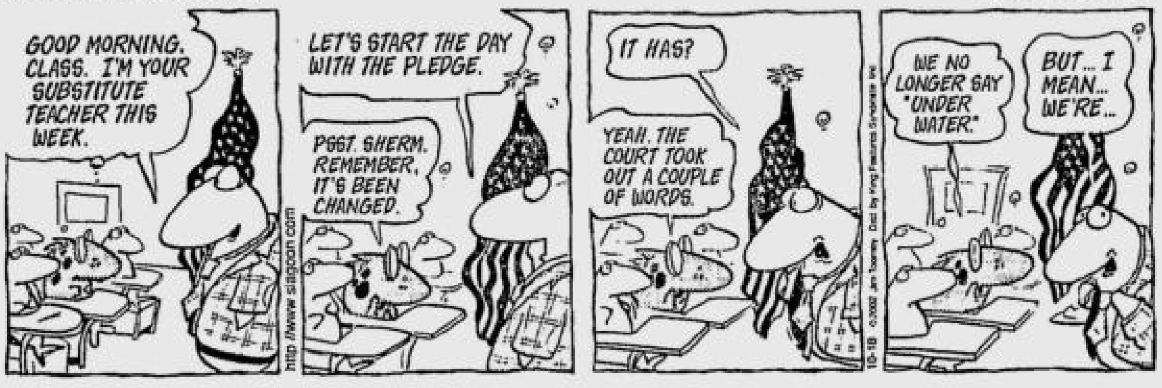
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


♫
UNLIKE EDWARD, HIS RECLUSIVE COUSIN, LARRY RAKEHANDS ALWAYS FOUND WORK DURING THE FALL,
10/18
Dist by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2002 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com

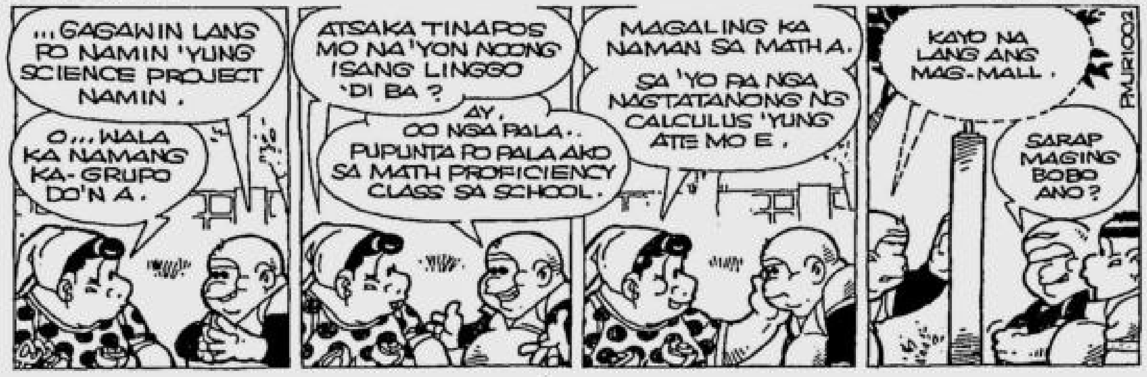
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


AKALA N'YO, KOMO BAGSAK ANG ATING EKONOMIYA
AT LUMALALA ANG KAHIRAPAN SA BANSA, E...
10/18/02
PABABAYAAN KO ANG SEX?

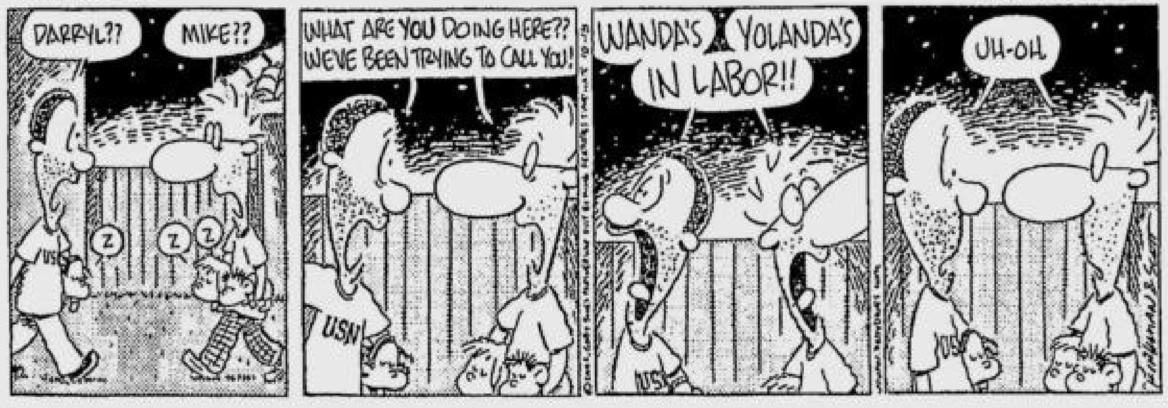
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


GOOD MORNING, CLASS. I'M YOUR SUBSTITUTE TEACHER THIS WEEK.
LET'S START THE DAY WITH THE PLEDGE.
PSST. SHERM. REMEMBER, IT'S BEEN CHANGED.
http://www.slagoon.com
IT HAS?
YEAH. THE COURT TOOK OUT A COUPLE OF WORDS.
WE NO LONGER SAY "UNDER WATER."
BUT... I MEAN... WE'RE...

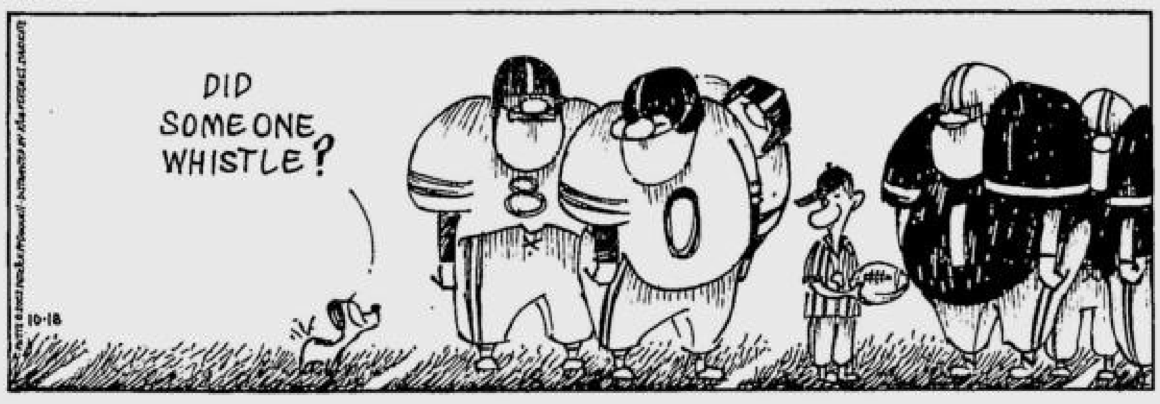
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


...GAGAWIN LANG PO NAMIN 'YUNG SCIENCE PROJECT NAMIN.
O... WALA KA NAMANG KA-GRUPO DO'N A.
ATSAKA TINAPOS MO NA 'YON NOONG ISANG LINGGO 'DI BA?
AY, OO NGA PALA.. PUPUNTA PO PALA AKO SA MATH PROFICIENCY CLASS SA SCHOOL.
MAGALING KA NAMAN SA MATH A.
SA 'YO PA NGA NAGTATANONG NG CALCULUS 'YUNG ATE MO E.
KAYO NA LANG ANG MAG-MALL.
SARAP MAGING BOBO ANO?
PMJR1002

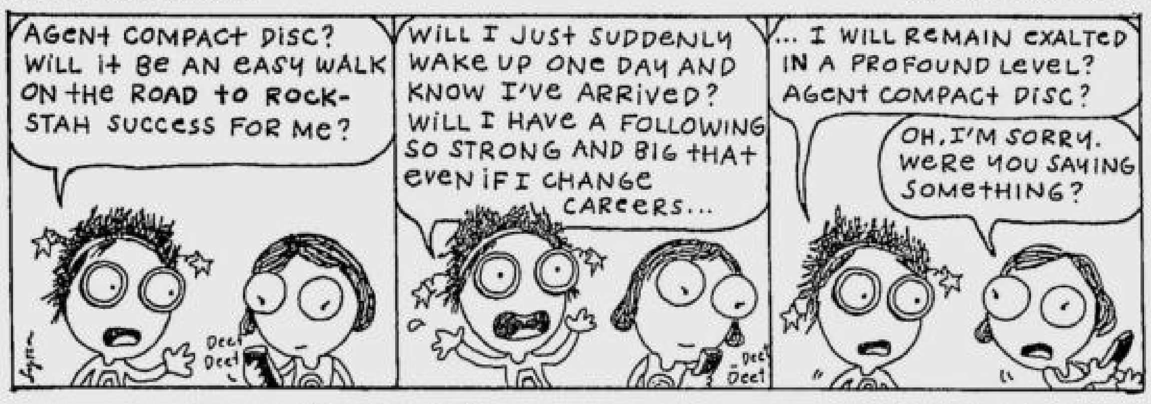
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


DARRYL??
MIKE??
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?? WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL YOU!
WANDA'S YOLANDA'S IN LABOR!!
UH-OH

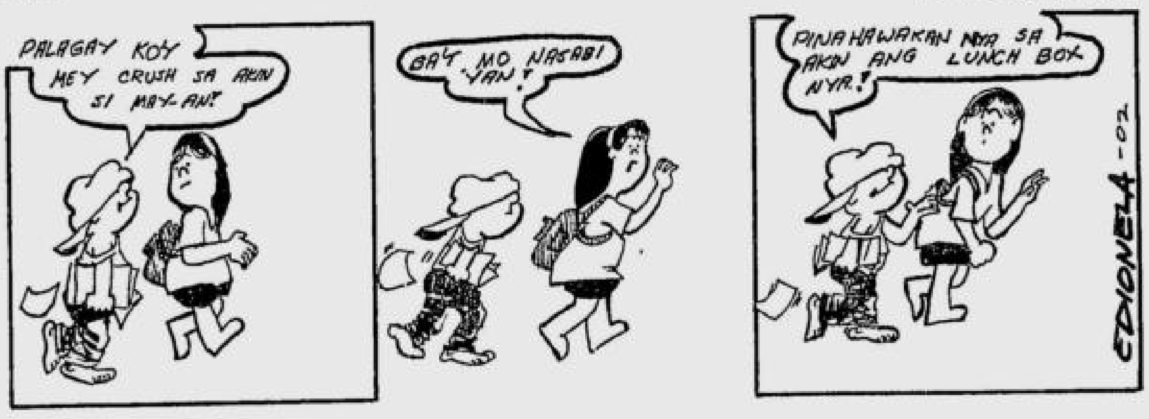
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DID SOMEONE WHISTLE?
10-18

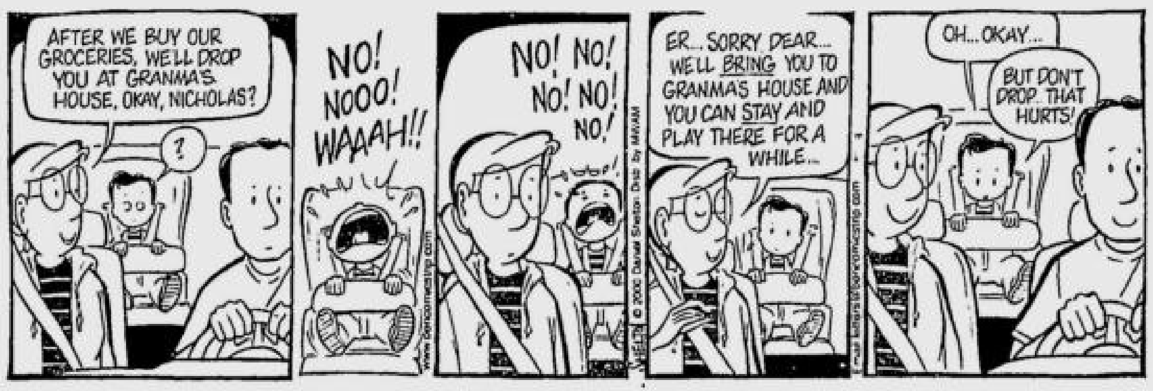
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AGENT COMPACT DISC? WILL IT BE AN EASY WALK ON THE ROAD TO ROCK-STAH SUCCESS FOR ME?
Deet Deet
WILL I JUST SUDDENLY WAKE UP ONE DAY AND KNOW I'VE ARRIVED? WILL I HAVE A FOLLOWING SO STRONG AND BIG THAT EVEN IF I CHANGE CAREERS...
Deet Deet
... I WILL REMAIN EXALTED IN A PROFOUND LEVEL? AGENT COMPACT DISC?
OH, I'M SORRY. WERE YOU SAYING SOMETHING?

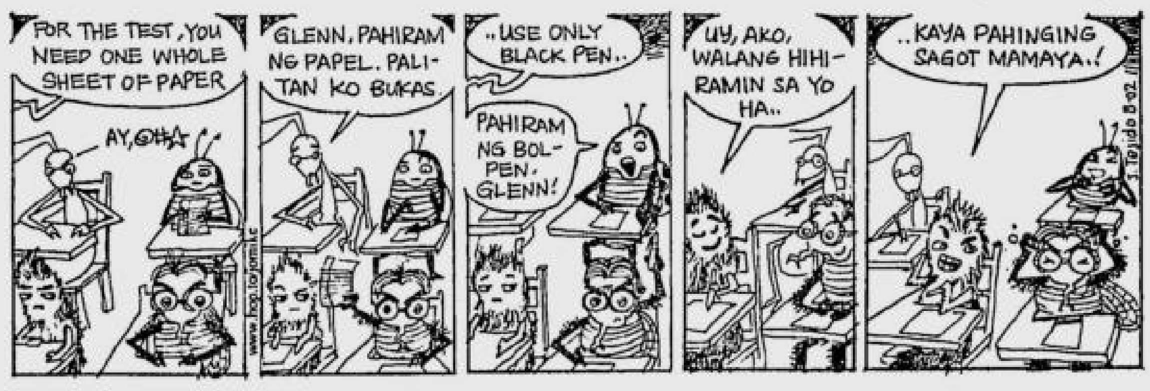
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


PALAGAY KO'Y MEY CRUSH SA AKIN SI MAY-AN!
BA'T MO NASABI 'YAN?
PINAHAWAKAN NYA SA AKIN ANG LUNCH BOX NYA!
EDIONELA -02

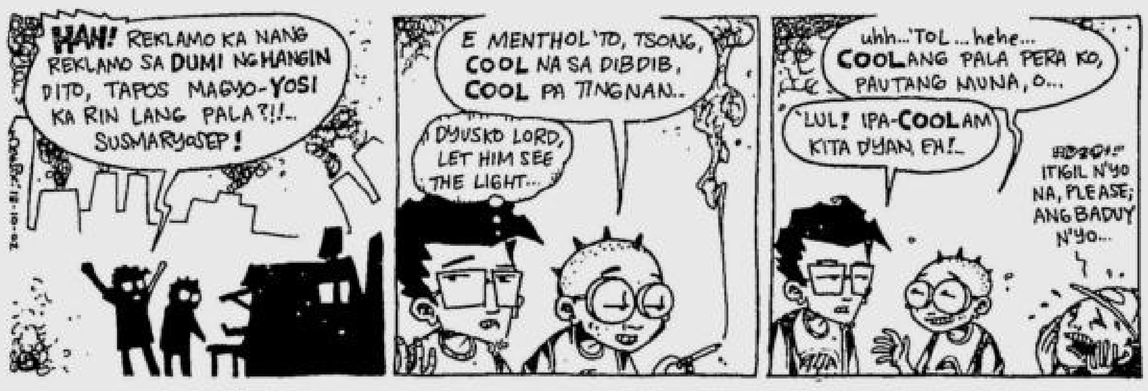
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


AFTER WE BUY OUR GROCERIES, WE'LL DROP YOU AT GRANMA'S HOUSE, OKAY, NICHOLAS?
?
NO! NOOO! WAAAH!!
NO! NO! NO! NO! NO!
ER... SORRY DEAR... WE'LL BRING YOU TO GRANMA'S HOUSE AND YOU CAN STAY AND PLAY THERE FOR A WHILE...
OH... OKAY...
BUT DON'T DROP. THAT HURTS!

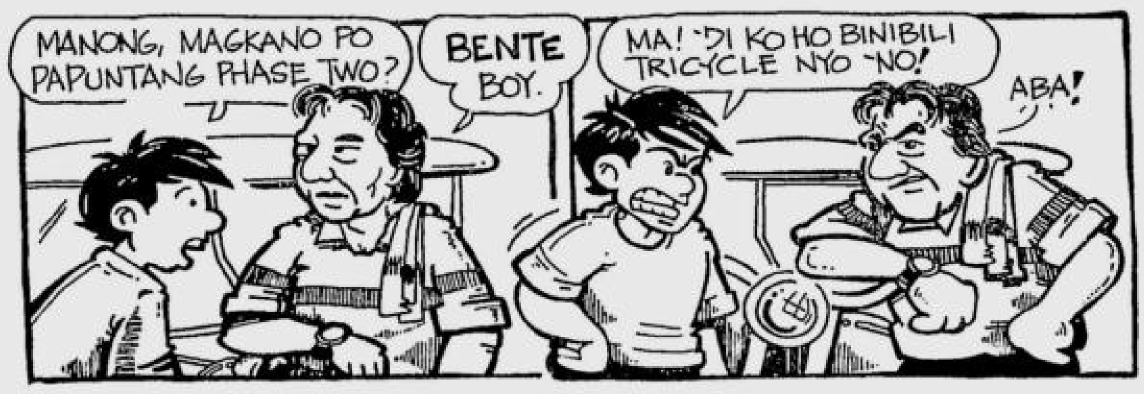
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


FOR THE TEST, YOU NEED ONE WHOLE SHEET OF PAPER
AY, OH!
GLENN, PAHIRAM NG PAPEL. PALI-TAN KO BUKAS.
..USE ONLY BLACK PEN..
PAHIRAM NG BOL-PEN, GLENN!
UY, AKO, WALANG HIHI-RAMIN SA YO HA..
..KAYA PAHINGING SAGOT MAMAYA..!

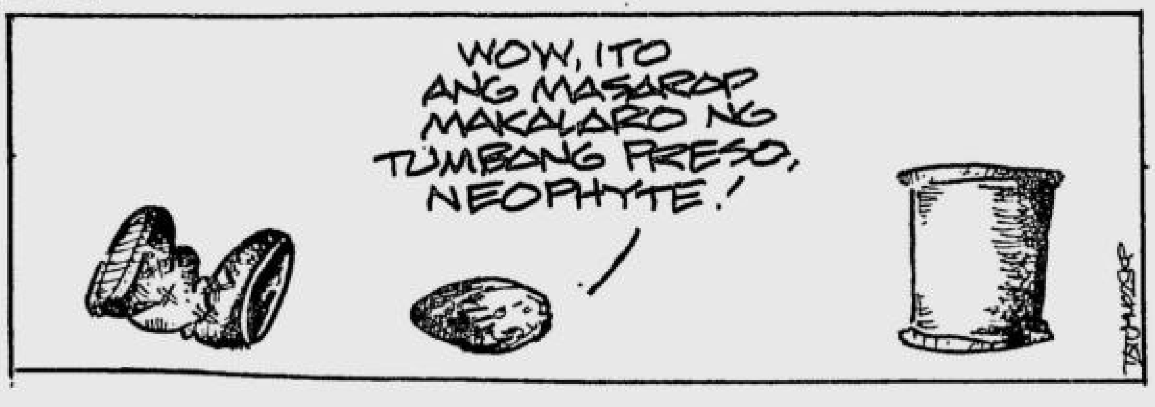
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HAN! REKLAMO KA NANG REKLAMO SA DUMI NG HANGIN DITO, TAPOS MAGYO-YOSI KA RIN LANG PALA?!!.. SUSMARYOSEP!
E MENTHOL 'TO, TSONG, COOL NA SA DIBDIB, COOL PA TINGNAN..
DYUSKO LORD, LET HIM SEE THE LIGHT...
uhh...'TOL... hehe... COOL ANG PALA PERA KO, PAUTANG MUNA, O...
'LUL! IPA-COOL AM KITA D'YAN, EH!..
ITIGIL N'YO NA, PLEASE; ANG BADUY N'YO...

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO


MANONG, MAGKANO PO PAPUNTANG PHASE TWO?
BENTE BOY.
MA! 'DI KO HO BINIBILI TRICYCLE NYO 'NO!
ABA!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WOW, ITO ANG MASARAP MAKALARO NG TUMBONG PRESO, NEOPHYTE!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jean-Claude Van Damme, Chuck Berry, Wynton Marsalis, Pam Dawber

Happy Birthday: The more you take on this year, the better you will do. You won't have any trouble attracting support if you are truly passionate about your ideas and your intentions. The more effort you put into your pursuits, the more you will get in return. Your numbers are 6, 10, 21, 29, 33, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Everyone will be receptive to your ideas and ready to help today. Changes in your home will be positive. Property investments should pay off.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can expand your circle of friends if you get out and socialize. Children may be difficult to deal with. Don't get involved in dubious financial ventures. Beware.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be confused about the intentions of someone you work with. Tread carefully. Don't trust others with secret information. Try to be discriminating with what you say to whom.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can get good, solid advice from relatives or close friends. You will find that lectures or travel will be highly successful. If you can, expose yourself to both.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Dead-end projects are likely to plague you. Think twice before you pursue an unrealistic endeavor. Discuss it with someone who knows your situation well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let someone you care about get away with verbal abuse. Overspending or unexpected bills will set you back. Pay attention to your finances so there are no surprises.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Concentrate on work. Your emotional life may be up in the air if your mate has been going through a change of heart. Unfortunately, this area could be beyond your control.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is a turning point. The time is ripe and your ideas can be put into action. Knowledge can be acquired if you listen. Ask questions and be attentive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will not be pleased with family members who try to put demands on you when you just don't have the time. Make it very clear to everyone that you are not available at this time. You must lay down ground rules.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will have the energy to clear up that mound of paperwork that's facing you. Take advantage of it. Someone you like will be receptive and actively seeking your presence. Don't be afraid to make yourself available.

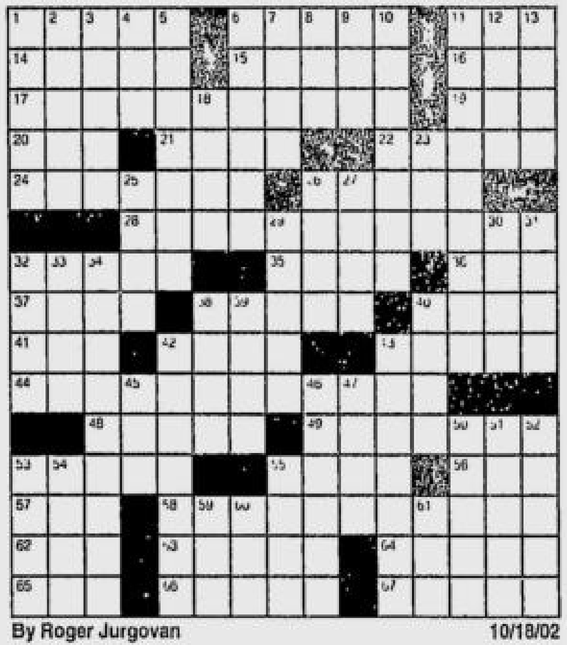
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): All your energy should be directed into moneymaking opportunities. You are finely tuned into the marketplace. You will be able to pick up on future trends. Be confident about your observations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't use emotional blackmail on someone you love. Try to see the situation from all sides. Resistance leading to discord will only make it twice as hard to turn the situation around, and may do irreversible damage.

Birthday Baby: You will have the charm and grace to win the support of those around you. You will always be ahead of everyone else because of your innate ability to tune in to what will and what won't work.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD
10/18/02

ACROSS
1 Small antelope
6 Guitar stroke
11 Combustion residue
14 Cretan port
15 Untrue!
16 Have debts
17 Chalet support?
19 Scot's negative
20 "Malcolm X" director
21 A-F connection
22 Correct
24 Ornate wardrobe
26 Nova Scotia strait
28 Risky driving maneuvers?
32 Handles roughly
35 __ St. Vincent Millay
36 Followers of Davis Love?
37 Early Christian pulpit
38 "The Absinthe Drinker" painter
40 Dancer Pavlova
41 Recent: pref.
42 List of choices
43 Anaheim player
44 Obscene garment?
48 Rib
49 Opposed to
53 Pale and smooth
55 Support
56 Devoured
57 Broadcast
58 Invasion meal?
62 Vitamin fig.
63 __ nous
64 Cleave in two
65 Remuneration
66 Poe bird
67 Beginning

DOWN
1 Florida city
2 Olympic runner Johnson
3 Against a thing, in law
4 Actress Arthur
5 Satiric poems
6 Dodger Duke
7 Director Hooper
8 AAA suggestion
9 NAFTA participant
10 Impetuses
11 Excellent gasket?
12 Cob or pen
13 Listen to
18 Creamy shade
23 East Lansing sch.
25 Norway capital
26 Yield
27 "Travels with My __"
29 Stopover on the way to Mercury
30 Square of three
31 Continental crust
32 Tailless feline
33 Part of 9D
34 Submarine picture?
38 Rx items
39 Poker fee
40 Not in favor of
42 Ramble
43 Plains tribe
45 Golf gadget
46 Listen
47 "Prince __"
50 Talons
51 Potbelly, e.g.
52 Dogma
53 Distort
54 Verdi work
55 Bonfire heap
59 Recombinant letters
60 Off-road letters
61 Author Amy

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

L	E	V	I	■	C	A	M	P	■	S	T	A	B	S
A	C	I	D	■	O	L	E	O	■	C	A	M	E	O
P	R	A	Y	■	C	A	R	D	■	A	C	E	R	B
P	U	L	L	S	O	M	E	S	T	R	I	N	G	S
■	■	■	■	T	O	O	■	O	C	T	■	■	■	■
N	A	P	K	I	N	■	C	U	K	E	■	I	F	S
A	L	L	E	N	■	E	L	S	E	■	S	N	A	P
P	L	A	Y	G	I	V	E	A	N	D	T	A	K	E
E	A	T	S	■	R	I	F	F	■	R	E	N	E	W
S	H	E	■	S	I	L	T	■	C	O	W	E	R	S
■	■	■	W	A	S	■	■	I	A	N	■	■	■	■
P	U	S	H	T	H	E	E	N	V	E	L	O	P	E
O	N	A	I	R	■	L	A	D	E	■	A	P	E	X
P	I	N	T	A	■	A	S	E	A	■	M	A	R	E
S	T	E	E	P	■	N	E	X	T	■	P	L	U	S

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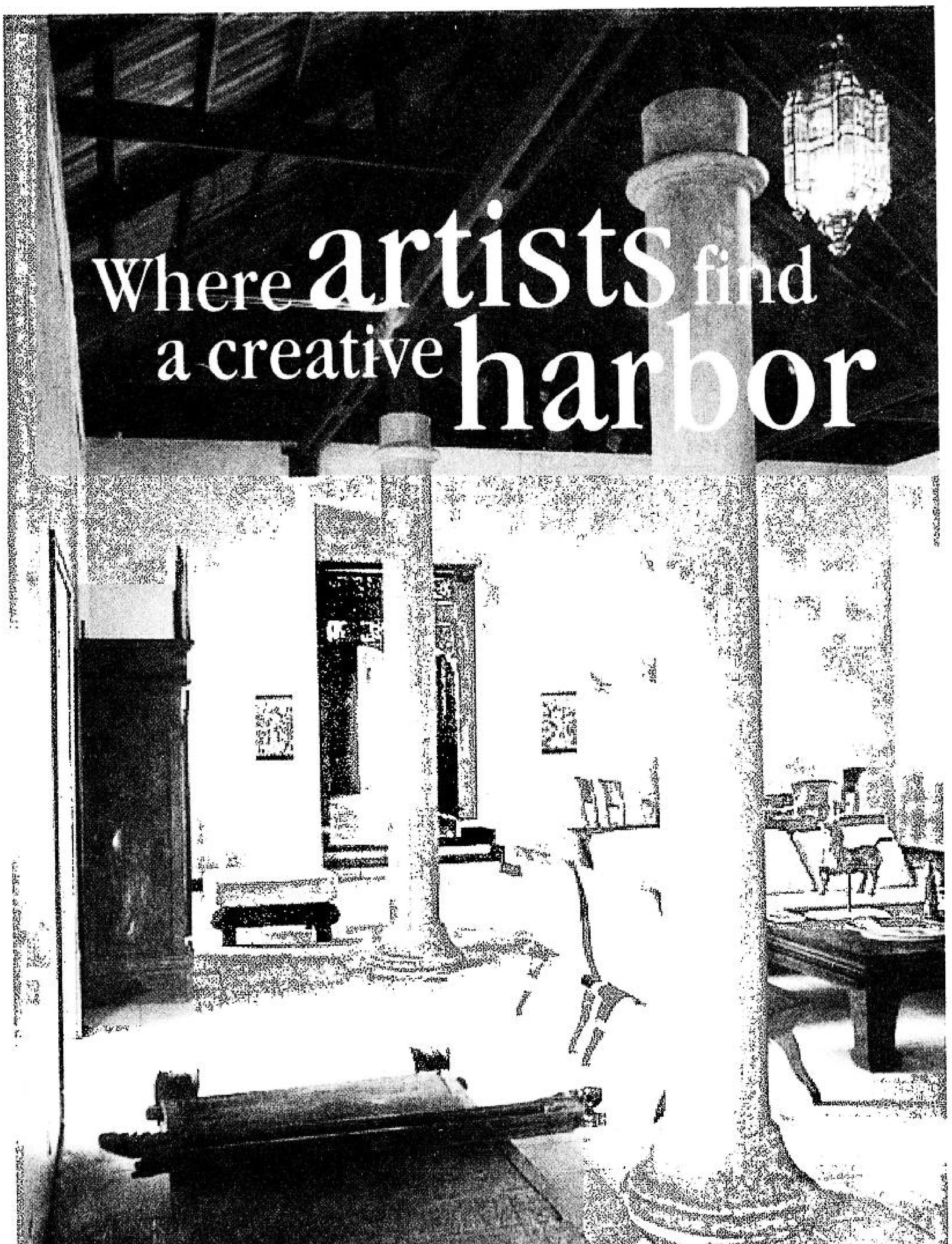
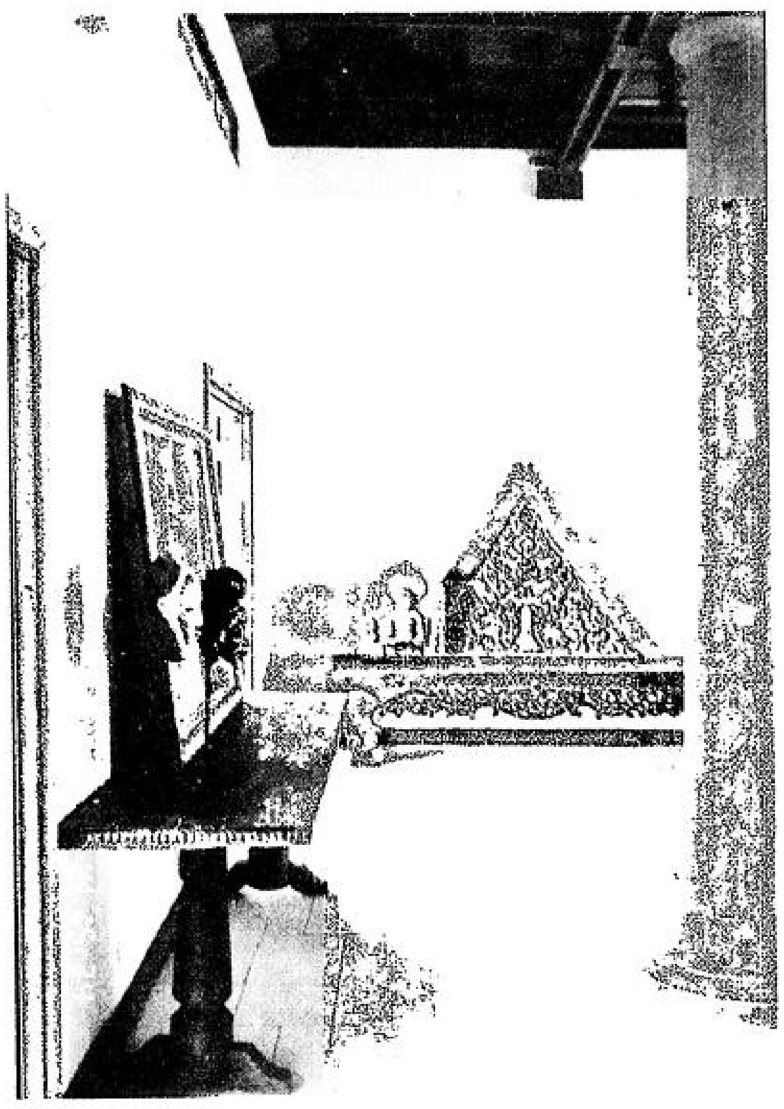
10/18/02

A ROW of trees flanks the long stretch of the garden, which one has to traverse before one reaches the pavilion, entering from the small gate. Trees are covered by vines called *lagtang* in Antique ("derris" in English). Its juice is hallucinogenic and said to be used by the Amazon Indians to cover their bodies, enabling them to cross the Amazon without being bitten by piranhas, as it is supposed to repel the carnivorous fishes.

Where artists find a creative harbor

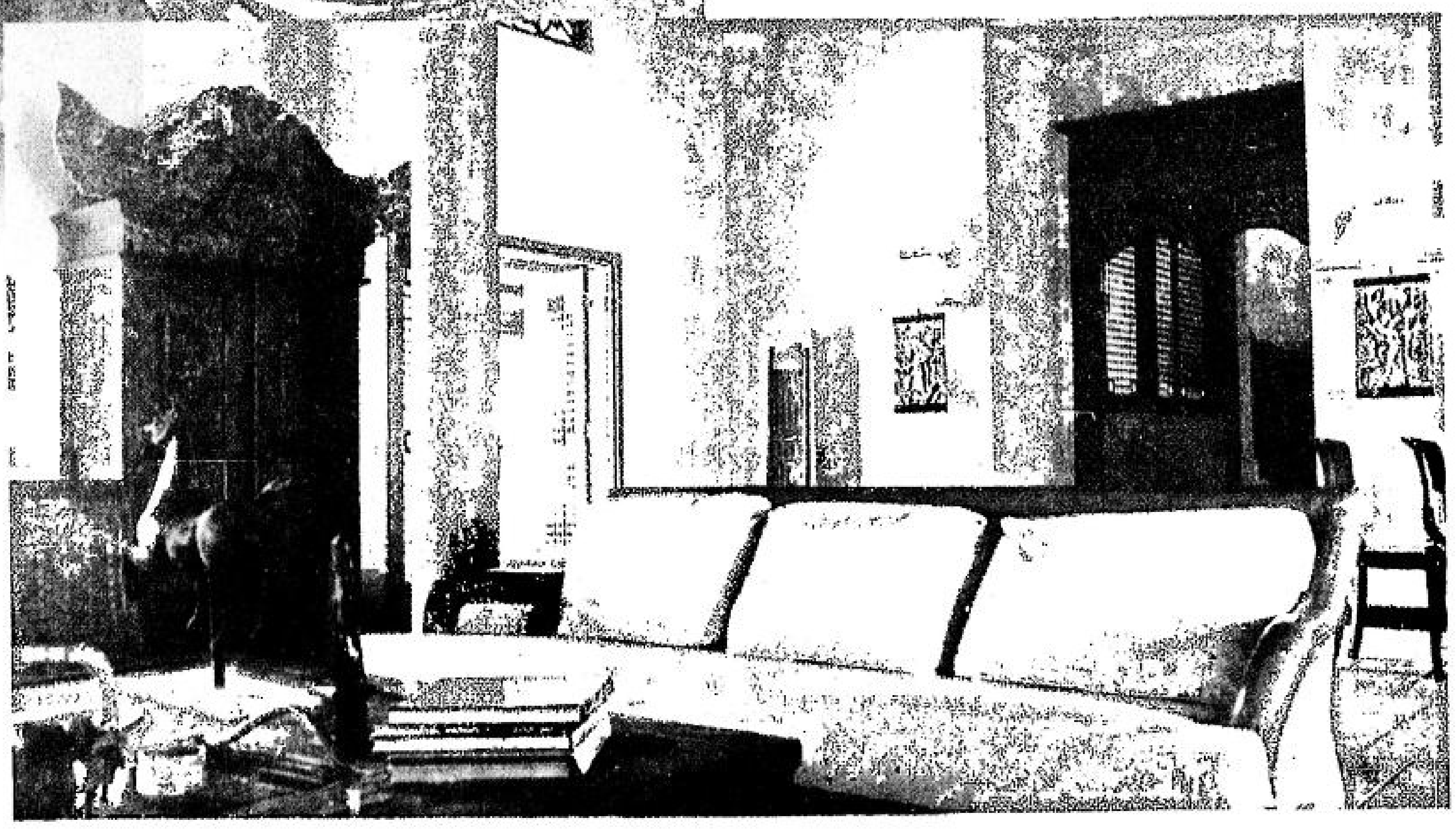




CONSOLE table in center is from Madura, on top of which is a 12th-century Burmese terra-cotta Buddha and an antique Thai temple gable with glass mosaic.

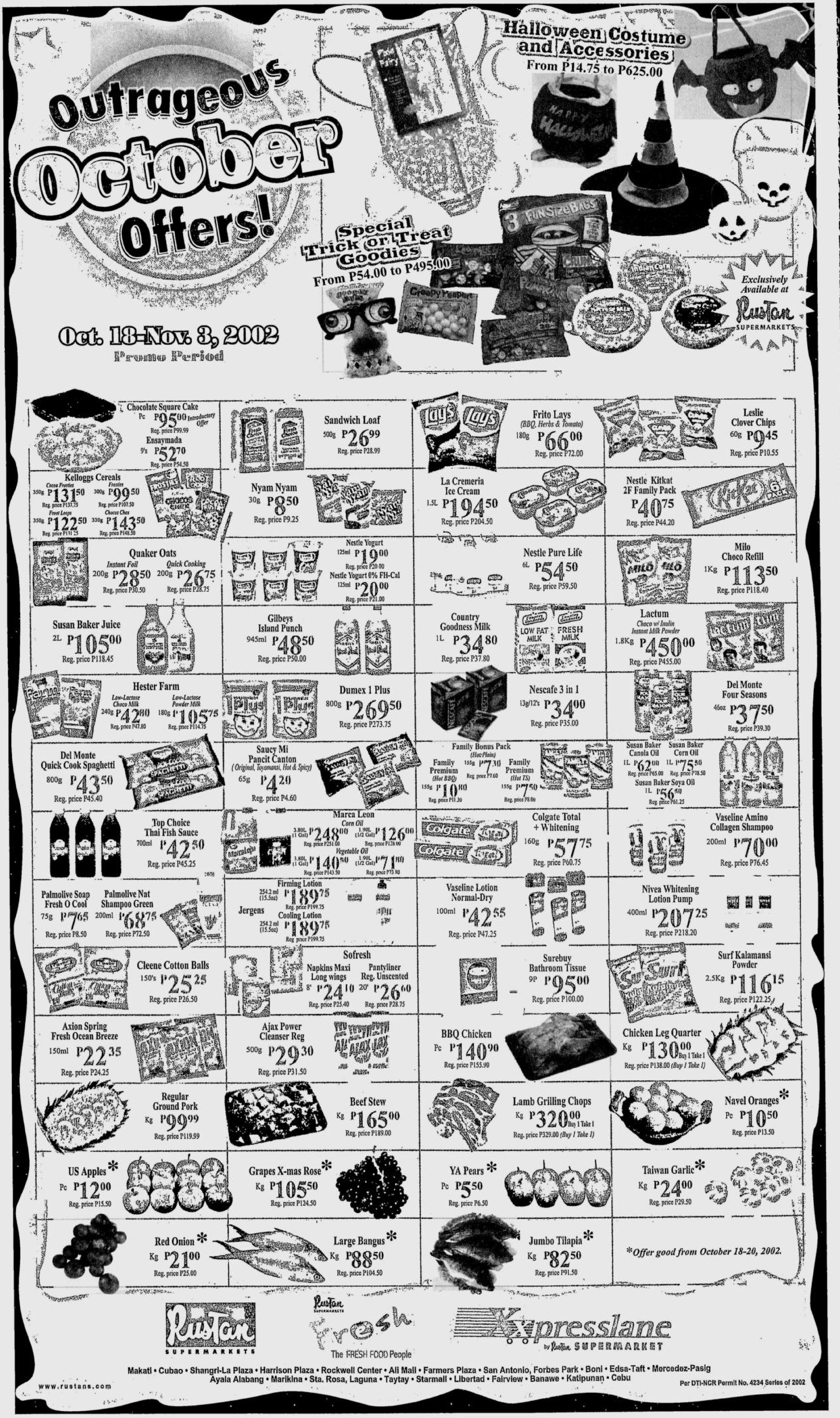
From page G3

> 'We will try to present to the world how a proper house should be done. At this stage, we can concern ourselves with quality, a built-in idea of native propriety and a good sense of culture. All in all, we are proceeding smoothly to a splendid homerun'



FLOOR has matte white Italian tiles, mimicking the look of antique French limestone floors. The set of molave and rattan single-seater divans is a one-of-a-kind design of the eccentric artist-designer Ernest Santiago. The lights on top of the pillars are Moroccan and the gilded spandrels are from Thailand.

WALLS are painted in a rather unconventional way, using rags instead of paintbrush. Colors are built layer after layer (as much as three layers), for a particularly luminous look. Both sides of the reception hall are lined with six *narra* and *capiz* double-doors, and the ventilation panels on top of each double door are made of carved *ipil* panels. Cabinet on the left is an antique Balinese armoir with a rare garuda crown. Colors are pure vegetal dyes.



Outrageous October Offers!

Oct. 18-Nov. 3, 2002
Promo Period

Halloween Costume and Accessories
From P14.75 to P625.00

Special Trick or Treat Goodies
From P54.00 to P495.00

Exclusively Available at Rustan Supermarkets

Chocolate Square Cake Pc P95^{00} Introductory Offer Reg. price P99.99 Ensaymada 9's P52^{70} Reg. price P54.50	Sandwich Loaf 500g P26^{99} Reg. price P28.99	Frito Lays (BBQ, Herbs & Tomato) 180g P66^{00} Reg. price P72.00	Leslie Clover Chips 60g P9^{45} Reg. price P10.55
Kelloggs Cereals Cocoa Frosties 350g P131^{50} Reg. price P137.75 Frosties 300g P99^{50} Reg. price P107.50 Froot Loops 350g P122^{50} Reg. price P131.25 Chocos Chex 330g P143^{50} Reg. price P148.50	Nyam Nyam 30g P8^{50} Reg. price P9.25	La Cremeria Ice Cream 1.5L P194^{50} Reg. price P204.50	Nestle Kitkat 2F Family Pack P40^{75} Reg. price P44.20
Quaker Oats Instant Foil 200g P28^{50} Reg. price P30.50 Quick Cooking 200g P26^{75} Reg. price P28.75	Nestle Yogurt 125ml P19^{00} Reg. price P20.00 Nestle Yogurt 0% FH-Cal 125ml P20^{00} Reg. price P21.00	Nestle Pure Life 6L P54^{50} Reg. price P59.50	Milo Choco Refill 1Kg P113^{50} Reg. price P118.40
Susan Baker Juice 2L P105^{00} Reg. price P118.45	Gilbeys Island Punch 945ml P48^{50} Reg. price P50.00	Country Goodness Milk 1L P34^{80} Reg. price P37.80	Lactum Choco w/ Inulin Instant Milk Powder 1.8Kg P450^{00} Reg. price P455.00
Hester Farm Low-Lactose Choco Milk 240g P42^{80} Reg. price P47.80 Low-Lactose Powder Milk 180g P105^{75} Reg. price P114.75	Dumex 1 Plus 800g P269^{50} Reg. price P273.75	Nescafe 3 in 1 13g/12's P34^{00} Reg. price P35.00	Del Monte Four Seasons 46oz P37^{50} Reg. price P39.30
Del Monte Quick Cook Spaghetti 800g P43^{50} Reg. price P45.40	Saucy Mi Pancit Canton (Original, Toyomansi, Hot & Spicy) 65g P4^{20} Reg. price P4.60	Family Bonus Pack (Hot/Plain) 155g P7^{30} Reg. price P7.60 Family Premium (Hot BBQ) 155g P10^{80} Reg. price P11.30 Family Premium (Hot TS) 155g P7^{50} Reg. price P8.00	Susan Baker Canola Oil 1L P62^{00} Reg. price P65.00 Susan Baker Corn Oil 1L P75^{50} Reg. price P78.50 Susan Baker Soya Oil 1L P56^{40} Reg. price P61.25
Top Choice Thai Fish Sauce 700ml P42^{50} Reg. price P45.25	Marca Leon Corn Oil 3.80L (1 Gal) P248^{00} Reg. price P251.00 1.90L (1/2 Gal) P126^{00} Reg. price P128.00 Vegetable Oil 3.80L (1 Gal) P140^{50} Reg. price P143.50 1.90L (1/2 Gal) P71^{80} Reg. price P73.80	Colgate Total + Whitening 160g P57^{75} Reg. price P60.75	Vaseline Amino Collagen Shampoo 200ml P70^{00} Reg. price P76.45
Palmolive Soap Fresh O Cool 75g P7^{65} Reg. price P8.50 Palmolive Nat Shampoo Green 200ml P68^{75} Reg. price P72.50	Jergens Firming Lotion 254.2 ml (15.5oz) P189^{75} Reg. price P199.75 Cooling Lotion 254.2 ml (15.5oz) P189^{75} Reg. price P199.75	Vaseline Lotion Normal-Dry 100ml P42^{55} Reg. price P47.25	Nivea Whitening Lotion Pump 400ml P207^{25} Reg. price P218.20
Cleene Cotton Balls 150's P25^{25} Reg. price P26.50	Sofresh Napkins Maxi Long wings 8' P24^{10} Reg. price P25.40 Pantyliner Reg. Unscented 20' P26^{60} Reg. price P28.75	Surebuy Bathroom Tissue 9P P95^{00} Reg. price P100.00	Surf Kalamansi Powder 2.5Kg P116^{15} Reg. price P122.25
Axion Spring Fresh Ocean Breeze 150ml P22^{35} Reg. price P24.25	Ajax Power Cleanser Reg 500g P29^{30} Reg. price P31.50	BBQ Chicken Pc P140^{90} Reg. price P155.90	Chicken Leg Quarter Kg P130^{00} Buy 1 Take 1 Reg. price P138.00 (Buy 1 Take 1)
Regular Ground Pork Kg P99^{99} Reg. price P119.99	Beef Stew Kg P165^{00} Reg. price P189.00	Lamb Grilling Chops Kg P320^{00} Buy 1 Take 1 Reg. price P329.00 (Buy 1 Take 1)	Navel Oranges* Pc P10^{50} Reg. price P13.50
US Apples* Pc P12^{00} Reg. price P15.50	Grapes X-mas Rose* Kg P105^{50} Reg. price P124.50	YA Pears* Pc P5^{50} Reg. price P6.50	Taiwan Garlic* Kg P24^{00} Reg. price P29.50
Red Onion* Kg P21^{00} Reg. price P25.00	Large Bangus* Kg P88^{50} Reg. price P104.50	Jumbo Tilapia* Kg P82^{50} Reg. price P91.50	*Offer good from October 18-20, 2002.

Rustan Supermarkets

Rustan Supermarkets Fresh
The FRESH FOOD People

Xpresslane by Rustan Supermarket

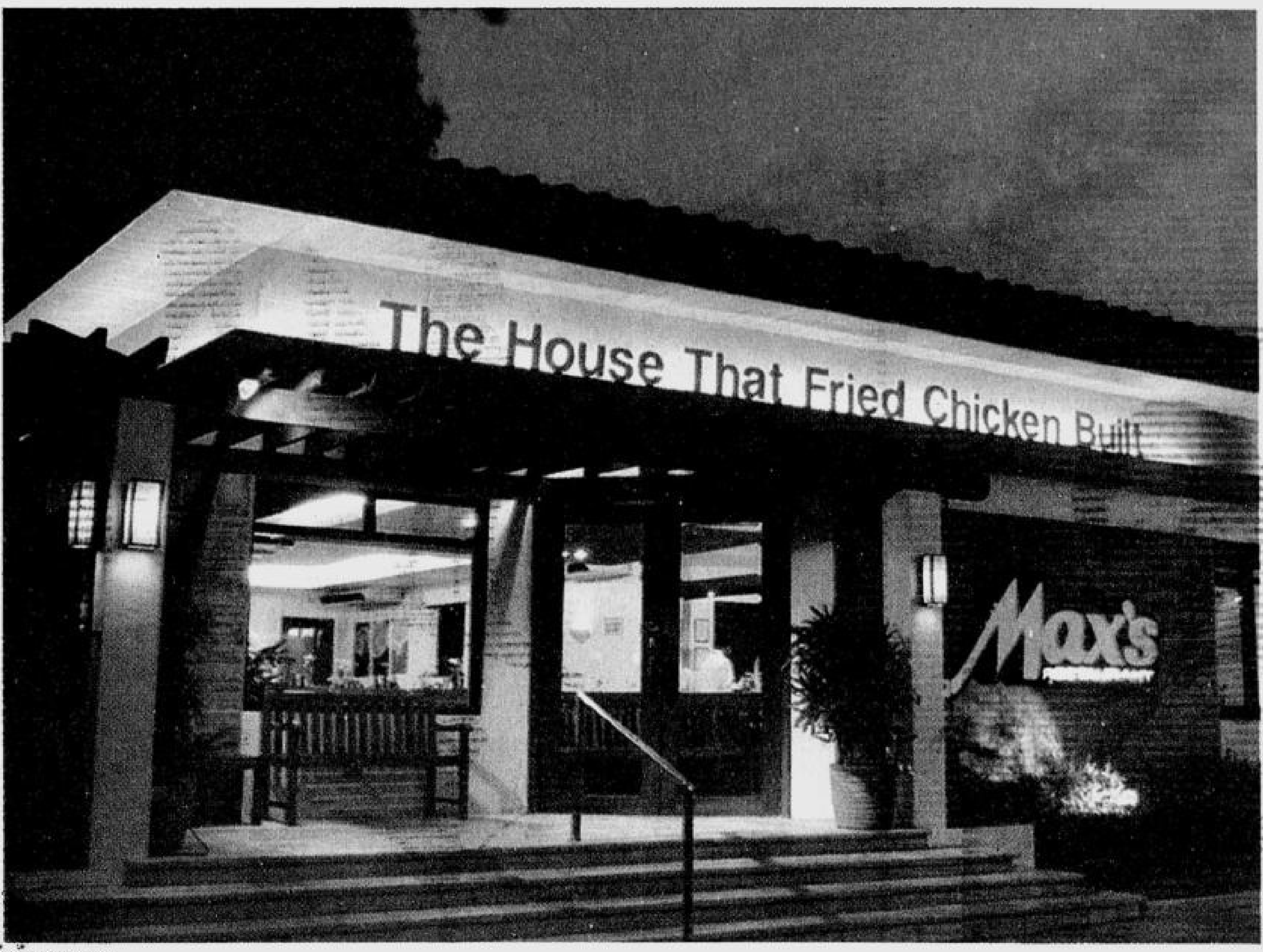
Makati • Cubao • Shangri-La Plaza • Harrison Plaza • Rockwell Center • Ali Mall • Farmers Plaza • San Antonio, Forbes Park • Boni • Edsa-Taft • Mercedez-Pasig
Ayala Alabang • Marikina • Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Taytay • Starmall • Libertad • Fairview • Banawe • Katipunan • Cebu

www.rustans.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4234 Series of 2002

Max's®
RESTAURANT

Max Tumatagal,
Max Sumasarap!



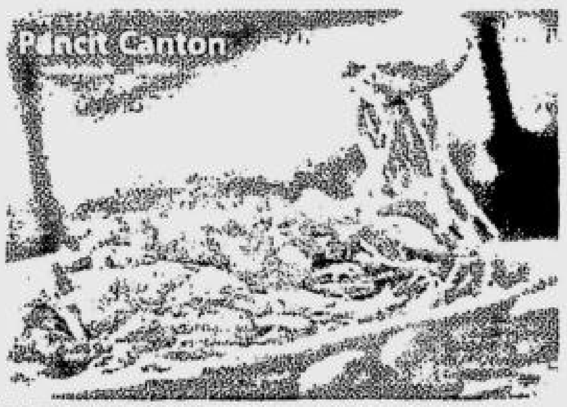
Max Masarap!

Max's Fried Chicken has always been known to create memorable ads that never fail to whet our appetite for the best fried chicken in the land. Light, wholesome and charming, who best can personify the newest advertising campaign than a celebrity like Piolo Pascual? "I still remember when I had my first bite of Max's. Kasal n'un, at ring bearer ako," Piolo reminisces. Ah, the start of a lifelong romance.

Mix 'n Max

Max's Fried
Chicken Sandwich
PEPSI

If you had a winning formula for fried chicken, which all people love so much they'll eat it to the bone, would you stop there? Not if you're Max's. Because it's simply part of its tradition to innovate, trust the restaurant to always find new ways to satisfy your craving, coming out with new dishes that will surely delight. Take the new Max's Fried Chicken Sandwich. With only the crispest lettuce and the freshest tomatoes – all smothered with irresistible mayo; it's the chicken sandwich that takes the bite from all the rest. That's because what it has inside is no ordinary chicken. And unlike others, it contains no extenders. Its filling is no less than a filling, mouthwatering piece of Max's Fried Chicken. Hungry already? Wait till you hear about the other new dishes of the restaurant, all available on a limited run. Tenderly-boiled bone marrow cooked with the sweetness of Japanese corn, try Max's Bulalo. Or if you're into greens, its Lumpiang Gulay will surely be a winner – sautéed vegetables with shrimp meat, lavished with sweet peanut garlic sauce. Even Max's Sizzling Beef Litid will surely catch your fancy – grilled minced beef, served with vegetables and seasoned with secret spices.



So, what are you waiting for? Go to your favorite Max's Restaurant, have Max's Fried Chicken Sandwich and any of these. Go for them, before they're gone.

57th year Anniversary
Max's
RESTAURANT

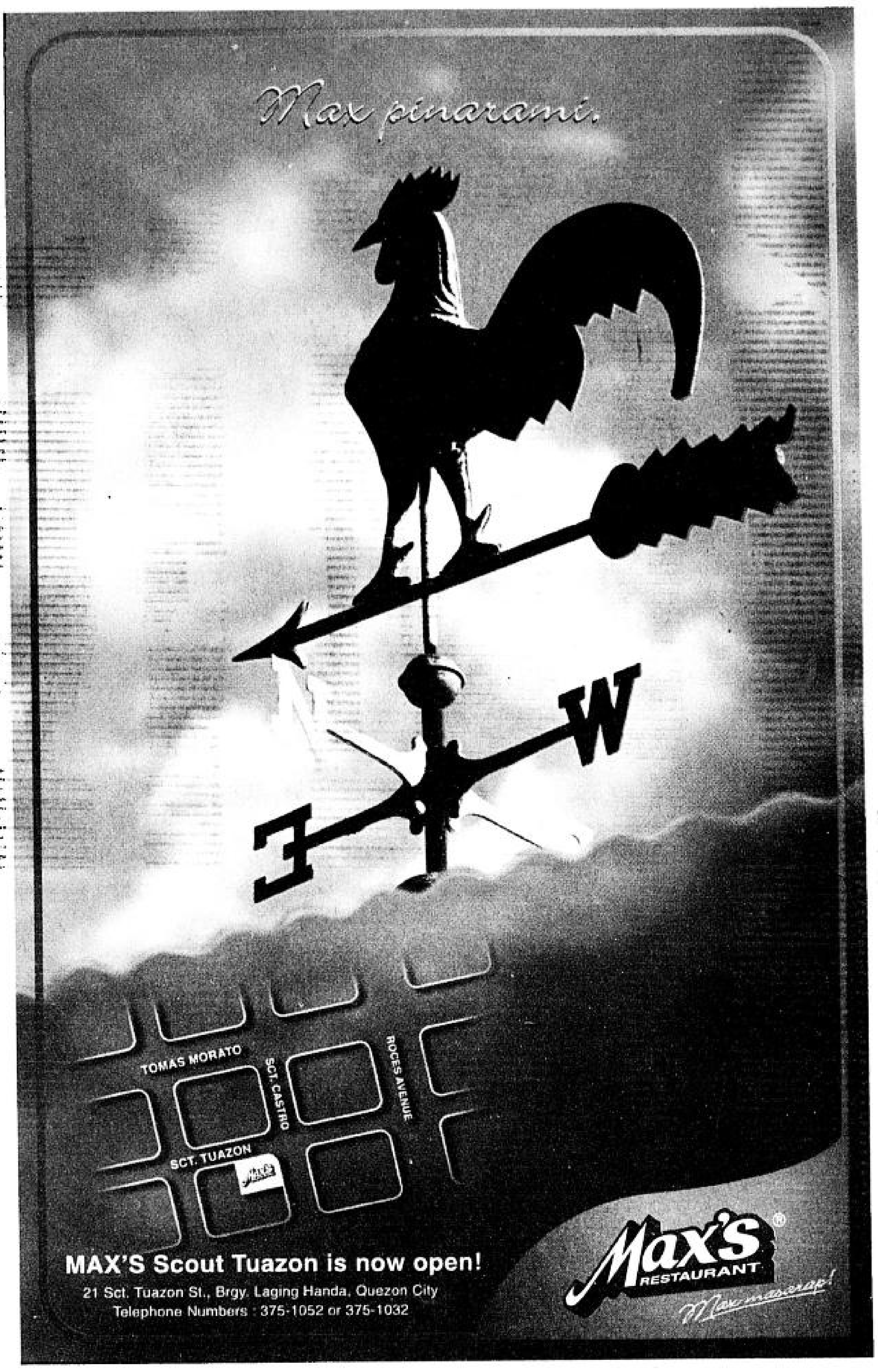
Our story started in 1945, with the opening of a small café on Scout Tuazon St., Quezon City. People came in droves to sample its original fried chicken concoction – and, ever since, they haven't stopped coming back. Now with over 78 branches in the Philippines and the United States, Max's pledges to keep this tradition of good food alive. And to make it better by finding new ways to delight the customer – in the next 57 years, and beyond.

Logo to the Max!

The food has remained the same, but the restaurant has improved. Customers have noticed this about Max's, and what better way to capture this change than to come out with a revitalized logo? One that portrays dynamism as it boldly streaks across the page. One that is arresting, with its dimensional rendition against dramatic color. One that signifies change; that tells the story that like the customer, Max's is ever-evolving; a logo that declares that things that are good can only get better.

Max's®
RESTAURANT
Max masarap!

A love affair with the fried-chicken that has successfully clawed out the challenges of foreign food brands. "I am happy because I grew up with Max's. I am proud to be its endorser, kasi it's Filipino-owned. Pinoy na Pinoy."

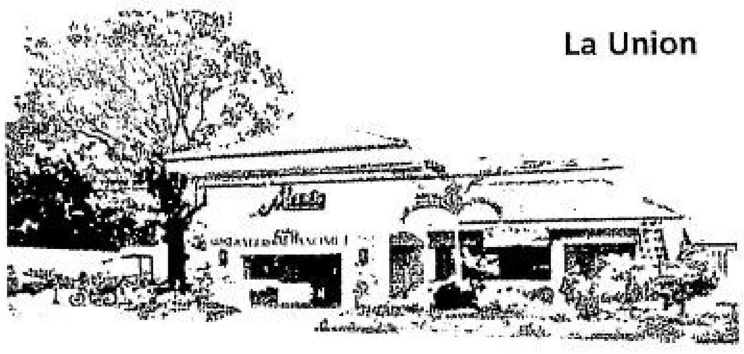


MAX'S Scout Tuazon is now open!
21 Sct. Tuazon St., Brgy. Laging Handa, Quezon City
Telephone Numbers : 375-1052 or 375-1032

Branches na SandamakMax!

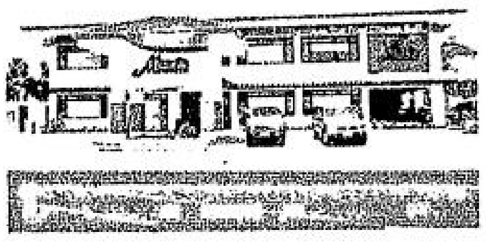
They've been hatching everywhere – Max's Restaurants that meet the demand of the Pinoy's love for Max's Fried Chicken. At last count, there are 78 branches in the Philippines, 2 in California, USA – and 5 more are expected to open at year-end, including the original Scout Tuazon site. Amazing! And you could say that there are branches practically everywhere as you can order your favorite fried chicken wherever you are by simply dialing 535-MAXS. Even cyberspace virtually has a branch as Filipinos abroad can order at www.eatmaxs.com, and gift their loved ones in the Philippines with a feast only Max's can deliver. But if you think there are still not enough Max's branches...why not put up your own? Max's has been franchising since 1998, and would be happy to entertain your intentions. With Max's, you can be sure to get assistance in setting up your dream business – from site-hunting to store opening. And the process only takes 6 months! Interested? Call 832-1991, and you'll soon be earning to the Max!

Dau



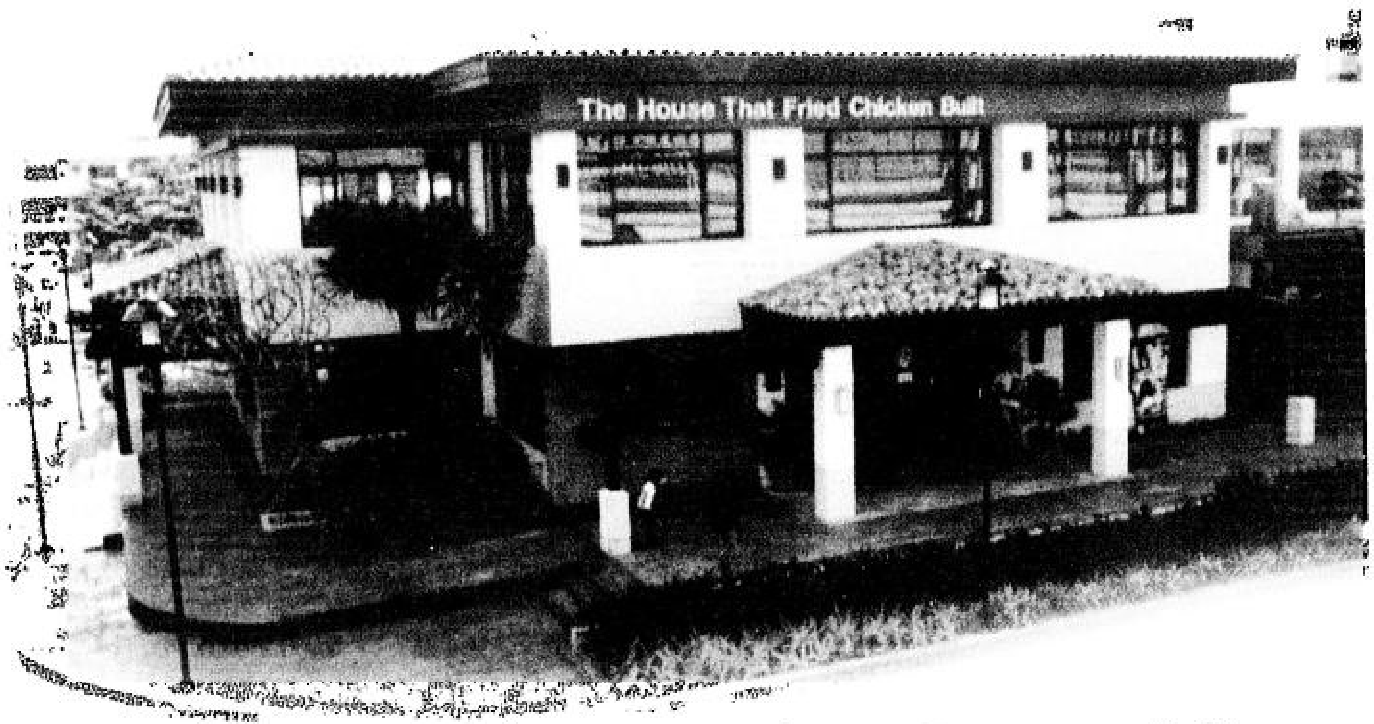
La Union

Pulilan

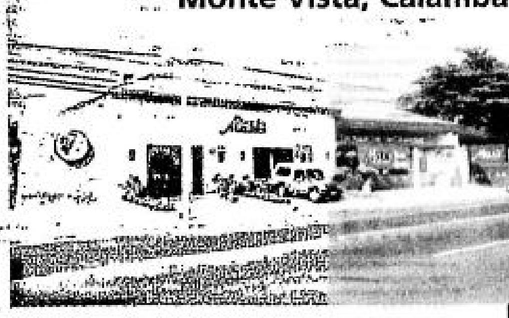


Scout Tuazon

Glorietta 2

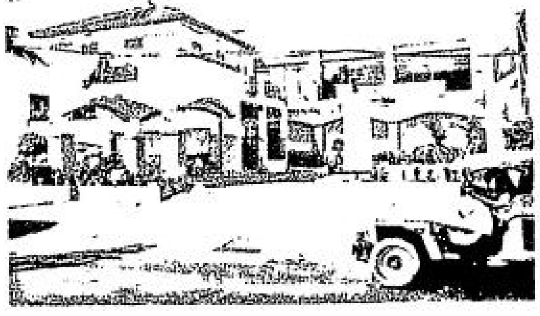


Monte Vista, Calamba



San Fernando

Malabon



Max Magandang Franchise

Be a part of a delicious Filipino tradition – get a Max's franchise!

Q: How can I be qualified as Max's Restaurant Franchisee?

- We require our franchisees to be business-oriented, with experience in another service-oriented business.
- You should possess the capability and willingness to learn our business.
- You should be entrepreneurs who enjoy working, communicating and relating with employees and customers.

Q: What are your criteria for selecting a site?

- Minimum of 200 sqm. (floor area) for mall-type and 400 sqm. for stand-alone with a lot requirement of 1,000 sqm. to accommodate parking.
- Should be located in preferrably high-traffic commercial/residential areas accessible to both pedestrians and motorists.

Q: Who will look for the site?

Our prospective franchisee should look for sites based on our site selection criteria. Max's will assist and advise you in evaluating the prospective location(s).

Q: Who will provide the building plans? Who will do the construction?

Max's Franchising, Inc. will provide you with guidelines for the building plans. You have the option to use/contract a Max's recommended contractor or your own architect. The restaurant will be constructed at a cost to be borne by the franchisee.

Q: Am I required to purchase any of the supplies and equipment from Max's Franchising, Inc.?

Proprietary supply requirements will be supplied through the commissary. However, other items that can be sourced locally can be purchased from Max's sub-contractors and/or accredited suppliers.

Q: As franchisee, shall I be trained and my employees as well?

You, as the franchisee, your management team, and all your pioneer employees will be provided with comprehensive training 1-3 months prior to opening your branch. And when operational, regular seminars and training programs are conducted to provide continuing learning.

Q: How soon can I operate my Max's Restaurant?

Once the site has been approved, the franchise agreement signed, and all related fees paid, it will take approximately 6 months for the Max's Restaurant to be ready for operations.

Q: What marketing and advertising support will the franchisee receive?

Max's marketing and advertising professionals continuously conduct research to help improve each restaurant's image in particular and the Max's Restaurant brand in general. Sales and sales trends are being analyzed on a wider perspective. System-wide and local-store promotions and advertising campaigns are being planned to provide maximum impact on a limited budget.

Nestlé Lemonade
Love the Squeeze
Max's
Max's Restaurant
Max masarap!

SIMPLY SURRENDER YOUR COUPON AT ANY MAX'S RESTAURANT AND GET A FREE GLASS OF NESTLE LEMONADE

Maraming SalaMax!

PEPSI

United Neon

Jufran

TECHNOLUX

Chromagraph, Inc.

GOMECO METAL CORPORATION

AIRWAY TECHNICAL SERVICES

FABTECH

Thank you also to Mariwasa Tiles, Scan Livingston and Vitarich.

Max Mapapasulit! Cut out these coupons, and get these freebies!

FREE Balloons to the first 100 kids Max's Valid only on October 18, 2002	FREE Scoop of Nestle Ice Cream until supplies last Max's Valid only on October 18, 2002	FREE glass of Lemonade upon surrender of coupon Max's Valid only on October 18, 2002	FREE Piolo post card for a minimum of P300 food purchase Max's Valid only on October 18, 2002	FREE Ball pen for 57 to 500 food purchases with 57 in the total bill Max's Valid only on October 18, 2002	FREE Ball cap for purchases above 500 with 57 in the total bill Max's Valid only on October 18, 2002
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